

Sairin Yuusha no Fukushuu Hanashi ~Shitsubou Shimatshita, Yuusha Yamete Moto Mao to Kumi Masu~

Arc 1

by Usaki Usagi

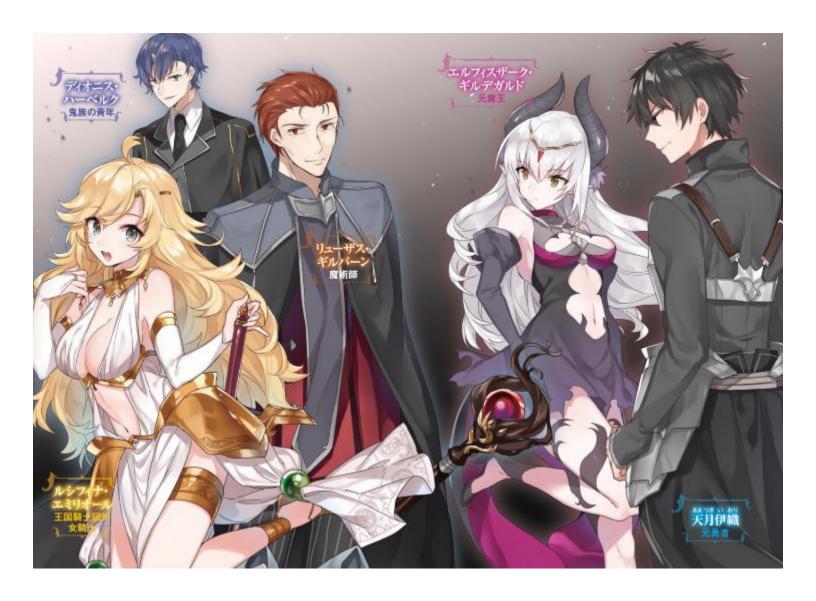
Novel Updates

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Prologue: The Frenzy Hero

[Welcome Hero from another world. Please, I want you to save this world from the demon king] (unknown)

Suddenly I heard the hoarse voice of a unfamiliar old man.

After hearing the voice I came to my senses and looked around.

Then I noticed myself standing on top of a strange pattern.

[Where am I....?] (Iori)

[This is "Leytesha," a world different from the one that you came from, Hero] (unknown)

The hoarse voice answered the question which was unconsciously being spurt out from my mouth.

I raised my eyes in the direction of the voice and there was everyone regardless of age or sex who wore the clothes like the noble of the Renaissance era lined up in a row.

The one who answered my question was the middle-aged man who was wearing a crown and stood out the most among the group.

[Ley....tesha]

[Yes, currently Leytesha is on the brink of destruction because of the demon king]

I stood dumbfounded while the middle-aged man continued his speech.

Wait, don't just push forward the story selfishly. The words do not come out because of my dry throat.

[Because of this the kingdom decided to summon a hero in order to slay the demon king] (King)

Am I having a transient dream? Or am I not able to distinguish between reality and delusion? The middle age man was saying something but the words did not get into my confused head.

However, strangely I was able to be understand what he was going to say.

[You are the hero....] (King)

First of all, lets calm down

I try to ignore the speech from that man, trying to calm my confused head

And trying to remember what happen a few minutes ago

I remember clearly what happen on that moment.

I wonder... what had happened to me.

I laughed loudly unintentionally while holding my aching head.

[Are you listening to what I'm saying?!] (King)

I feel upset as my sight was cast down on the ground.

Suddenly there was a shout came from the middle age man.

I look up to the direction of the harsh shout. In front of my eyes, there stood a man that was wearing a black robe and was holding a cane which was embedded with a red jewel. When I look toward that man instantly my confusion disappears.

[You are in the presence of his Majesty the King! Raise your face!] (Men in black robes)

[Its fine Luser's, the hero seems still confused and there no need to rush it] (King)

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what "Luser's"!!?
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The middle age man with the red hair that was shouting at me is named Luser's, at the same time when the rebuke word enter my ear, suddenly my thoughts went blank as if I being struck by a thunder.

-damn you, I have had it with the "hero"

At the same time my head reached its limit with the gushed memories, then I stomped the floor as if I crushing it and started running toward Luser's.

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[Aaaaarghhh!!!]
[wha~!?]
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Toward the roar yelled by me like an animal, as Luser's reacts to it but it's already late.

Before that guy raises his cane, I struck a blow direct to his face.

I fired a fist full with hatred directly to Luser's face.

[Gaaah~]

Causeed by the momentum, Luser's is sent flying and crashes onto the wall.

I pierce a glare straight at him as I was about to faint

Not yet.

This is not going to end just like that.

As I ride on top of him, I land punches.

The sound where my fist strikes the cheekbone echoes.

[Wait Hero! what are you trying to do!?] (King)

[Arrest him quickly!!] (King)

The people around rush towards me with a quite force, I was being held down

[Luu....seerr!!!] (Iori)

Still, I keep beating Luser's.

At that time, all the emotions that were accumulated in my heart were cleared up.

[Fuck you....only you!] (Iori)

Luser's faints completely.

However, it not gonna end just with this.

It is not finished.

-The pain I received from him, is greater than this

As I want to land one more hit I was pinned down to the ground.

Immediately I was trying to shake off the people that pinned me down however for some reason my strength does not come out.

[I won't forget the things that you did to me!] (Iori)

Still, I struggled and extended my hand towards Luser's However a dull shock runs at the back of the my head as my vision flashed I felt my strength leaving my body

[What the heck...] (unknown)

Someone among the people who arrested me said such a thing

-"What the heck" you say?

As my consciousness fades away the words enter my ear. For such an obvious question, I answer it in my heart.

This fucking guy is my murderer.

♦

It isn't for the first time that I, Amatsuki Iori, am being summoned to this world.

Until several minutes ago, I was being summoned as a hero to protect this world.

Although.

In the end what was waiting for me was betrayal from my fellow companions whom I trusted

Having my arm cut off and being stabbed in the chest, I still remember everyone laughing to the dumbfounded me.

That red haired guy, Luser's is one of them.

By murdering me the achievement for subjugating the demon king will be claimed by themselves.

When the war ends, the hero is just an obstruction.

You are already unnecessary.

While being told so by my laughing companions I was being murdered.

For some reason I'm still alive.

I still don't understand the reason but I'm really thankful for my luck

Because I've been given an opportunity to take revenge on the people who betrayed me

-I'm gonna make them regret.

Having betrayed me.

I laughed until I lost my consciousness.

Episode 1: The last moments of the hero

A day passed after the second summons. Now, I'm sitting on the bed in the prison that is located in the basement of the royal palace.

[Did you calm down your head already?] (knight) [....yes, I'm sorry for causing you trouble.] (Iori)

I lowered my head and said it in a regretful tone to the knight who has spoken from the other side of the iron bar. As the knight breathed a sigh in relief saying [I'll report it to His Majesty, then you'd be able to go out after a while] then he departed away from the prison.

Such as, "I'm sorry to cause you trouble"don't joke with me. The one saying that should be your kingdom.

While being in the prison, I heard lots of things from the knight.

Such as how I hit Luser's like a punch bag and left him with big scars, and the person himself says nothing about it and I'll be taken out from a jail immediately after calming down. It seems they consider me innocent because they classify the assault as being related to the shock from being summoned.

Well, they just can't execute immediately a hero that just got summoned

However, I was slightly careless to act without understanding the situation.

The result is being thrown in this prison.

Because it happened right after I was murdered, It can't helped right.

「.....although by using some magic it was possible to brake out of this prison easily, but」(Iori)

If its the effect of being killed once or the effect of being summoned a second time.

For some reason, I'm completely unable to use any magic at all.

Even if I can release a feeble magical power, I cannot convert it into form of magic at all.

It may be said that I almost lost all my power as hero as well.

Therefore by entering the prison, I have no strength to breakthrough it.

Even to kill Luser's it will take a considerable effort.

In addition to that I realized that my appearance was quite strange.

My muscle strength has dropped and my height was also reduced, even the color of the hair has changed.

It seems that I was returning to my appearance at the age when I still in high school, somehow similar to when I was summoned for the first time.

My face has become young, and it is natural that nobody will notice that I am an ex-hero.

Unable to use magic and the muscular strength has dropped too.

All the knowledge, technique and the experience I gained is still firmly in my mind.

I may be able to defeat an ordinary knight easily.

There are plenty of methods I can use if I feel like doing it.

「Luser's.....」(Iori)

I bear my anger when I close my eyes as I recall something.

First is being summoned into this world. Then, about being betrayed by my fellow companions.

♦

When I was summoned into this world it was about three years ago.

I was just relaxing myself in my home, then got summoned in the same way as now by this kingdom.

「Welcome Hero from another world, please, I want you to save this world from the Maou」(unknown voice)

At that time too, when I opened my eyes I was standing on a circle with a strange pattern.

Ironically, I heard the same words for the first and the second time being summoned.

Afterwards the old man that claims to be the King explained the reason why I got summoned.

The world is called Leytesha and is a world different from earth.

It seems to be a crisis and the world is in the brink of destruction the cause is an existence that is referred to as the Maou.

「Therefore, in order to slay the Maou the Onriin Kingdom summoned a hero」(King)

「.....that is」(Iori)

「Thats right, It's you」(King)

Parallel worlds, Hero, Maou.

In the modern society everything that is being spouted by that mouth will not be taken seriously.

Without mercy all the information being told is confusing my head.

Then hero, what is your name? \((King) \)

The glance being given by the king obviously has the aura of being accustomed with the politics. Being in such a situation I cannot think of it as a joke, as the surrounding atmosphere becomes heavy.

Amatsuki Iori.

Thinking about my name, it seems to sound a bit girly, thinking about that I spoke out my name.

「Amatsu」(Iori)

Only half of it.

As I stutter magnificently from the tension.

It is beyond my control, the last time I standing in a crowd like this was on my junior high school graduation ceremony.

「I see, so Amatsu it is」(King)

No, you are wrong.

Still cannot say anything as Amatsu eventually is established as it is. At that time, because there is no time for it.

Then Amatsu-dono......would you save this world from the Maou? J(King)

As a matter of course, the King is going to push forward the story.

I got irritated from the tone that ignored my circumstances entirely, as I want to say \(\Gamma \) do not want to fight \(\Gamma \) in my trembling voice.

I've been alive for 16 years.

Without doing anything special, being dragged by the problems of other people.

When both my parents were killed in an accident, I was being taken care of by my uncle.

Even though, to be dragged by the circumstances, this is a matter of life or death.

That makes me really want to go back home. Asking \(\text{It takes several} \) years to return to the original world \(\text{J to be returned .} \) For the past year, the kingdom is being annihilated by the Maou forces \(\text{JIt was a threat.} \)

From a high school student that knows nothing about fighting, what did the people from this world expect from someone such as me.

Afterwards, \(\text{\text{Without having my consent} \) was then dismissed, by the order of the King I will live in one of the palace rooms. Trying to slowly change my mind, such an ulterior motive can be seen through.

I shut myself up in the room, going through my daily life just eating and sleeping.

As the people at the palace look at me, they scorn me as a coward.

At that time, I just didn't care. I just wanted to do things that entertained myself.

I was determined that I don't want to become a slave known as "Hero". At first I was thinking like that.

However an event happened that became a turning point.

A radical faction that got furious because I decided to not to fight, they launched a surprise attack into my room. It was a narrow escape. If the woman who happened to pass by didn't help me, I would've been certainly killed.

There should be a knight doing a patrol in the palace.

However, by chance, on that day the knight on patrol was slacking off.

The people who attacked me were given a severe punishment by the King.

The knight who abandoned his duties was given a similar fate.

Related to the event that occured, the King shamelessly said.

「Amatsu-dono if you do not fight as a hero, perhaps a similar thing will happen in the future」(King)

In other words the King was the one that pulled the strings behind the scenes.

Even I was able to notice it, but was not able to do anything about it.

「Four years. I promise to let you return to your original world if you protect the kingdom during those four years」(King)

Said the King once. Over the years the attacks of the Maou forces became intense.

At this rate in three years the human race would perish.

In other words, 「If you want to return back to your original world, then defeat the Maou」 that was the meaning of the words spoken by the King.

If I don't fight, I might be killed by the hands of the King himself.

Otherwise, if the kingdom was destroyed by the Maou, it was not possible for me to return to my original world.

「.....I understand」(Iori)

After that I was dragged by the flow, being made to fight for something that was unrelated to me.

♦

As I decided to fight, like a miracle I was able to understand a method to use my power.

The crest which is the proof of the hero was inscribed on my arms.

It gives me a superhuman physical ability and overwhelming magic power.

By being exploited, I was made to fight as instructed.

Influenced by the power my hair turned gray and even my height was greatly increased too. In just three month, my appearance became completely different from back then.

At that time, it was the beginning of Iori being refered as "hero Amasu". Becoming a savior to protect the world.

「"Hero" huh」(Iori)

To save the world or being a savior, I don't think about such a noble thing at all.

This is a fight only for the sake of me returning to my original world.

At first, I thought that way.

My thoughts changed after half a year passed.

「I'm Luser, In order to defeat the devil king army, please let me join you」(Luser)

To confront with the Maou army, the cooperation with many humans is a necessity.

Among those people, Luser, the magic instructor was one of them.

「I have a little sister, and I want to create a world where hope exists for her sake」(Luser)

Luser said that he fights in order to protect his important person. Being thrown in such a world, there is no one that I wish to protect. However Luser saying that he wants to fight so he can protect looked amazing.

「I don't want to see any of my kin being hurt anymore, that's why I choose to fight together with you Amatsu」(Dionis)

Being said so by Dionis,a youth that came from Onizoku* a sub-human. T/N #Ogre tribe#

As the Onizoku that always took the neutral stands, they were loathed by both human and the Maou forces.

That's why I must lead the Onizoku. I will do anything for the sake of protecting my tribe (Dionis)

A sense of responsibility, to fight for the tribe sake.

And a strong will to achieve his mission.

It was something that Dionis had, something I will never have because I was just being dragged.

While I fought with them, I realized that little by little something is changing me.

Then.

The woman that protected me from the attack of the radicals before. An encounter with Lucifina changed me greatly.

The first of the state of the s

At that time both my parents... \((Lucifina)

Human, demon, sub-human, there are plenty of people that I saw being hurt and die from the war. Therefore, I want to create the world without war where every race will be able to coexist. Lucifina told me her dream.

If I'm together with you, I believe that will be possible I"Lucifina"

There were many times when I was saved by Lucifina.

When I almost gave up she always supported me.

Saying things such as "you are a strong person and you'll certainly be able to return to your original world".

I never complained in a harsh fight, because of her figure that always supported her companions gently has drawn me little by little.

At first when I decided to fight, I thought only about returning to my former world.

But when I continued our journey, my feelings changed.

As I saw many people being hurt because of the war.

I looked at the sub-humans that lost their important persons in the war.

As I saw Mazoku* grieving for their killed friends. T/N demon race*

I truly saw lots of people being hurt by the war.

That's why I thought. I want to realize the world without wars like I was being told by Lucifina.

However, even if I have the power of the hero, it wasn't an easy journey. There were many times I almost died and became discourage myself.

Because of my three companions I was able to keep on fighting.

While receiving the support from a kingdom and the other countries we fought against Maou army. The outcome of the war reversed greatly and was gradually leaning toward the human side.

Just as the end of the war getting near. Our bond was deepening, the only thing left was defeating the Maou, the root of all evil.

Thats what I thought.

—— Until the day when the decisive battle was carried out.



About three years have passed since the day I was being summoned.

All the labyrinths along with the King Four Devas which the Maou army installed in each country

Have been defeated, the only one remaining was the Maou.

By receiving all country support, my party marched into the Maou Castle.

I already exchanged blows with the Maou once before.

I successfully weakend the Maou that time.

The strategy was like this.

As Lucifina's and me faced off the Maou as vanguard and Dionis as support. In the mean time Luser will conserve his magical power to attack the Maou using his maximum power.

I'm gonna make desperate efforts and cast all which I cultivated so far to make this strategy succeed.

While getting over the traps, killing the mazoku and breaking numerous difficulties, we kept marching towards Maou's Castle.

The human army that follow us was being restricted in their movements and was unable to get inside, Its said that only the power of a party will enable us to defeat the Maou.

Then, by preserving Luser's magical power, we reached the most inner part of Maou room.

「From here onward, I cannot let you go through 」"unknown"

The one that blocked our path in the end was only a single demon.

It was a girl, floating, with golden eyes and long silver hair that was swaying.

With a small body that contains unordinary magical power.

There was nothing that surpassed this powerful magical power if I recall all my past battle.

At that time the girl began naming herself.

「Elfisuzaku Giraldo」

「.....Amatsu」

We just exchanged our words like that.

Then, the fight began.

The girl was really strong.

Even for us who defeated the King Four Devas,we have struggled to our limits.

Every time magic is used, a wall is broken, and a floor is cracked.

Lucifina was fighting as vanguard by using a sword while Dionis and Lucer were supporting at the rear.

At the end of this fierce battle to the death, the little girl was brought down to her knee.

「It is...... my lost」(Elfisuzaku)

With her entire body shedding blood she threw the sword as she muttered.

I have to defeat this girl in order to bring the war to an end.

While facing the girl, I was about to swing down the sword and at that time.

「I wonder why did this happen...... I only wanted to stop the war」(Elfisuzaku)

The words were not directed to anyone, it was a self-mockery.

For the words that "I only wanted stop the war", slowly my gripping strength slightly loosened.

「You.....」(Iori)

This girl who I clashed with for several times is not a demon that enjoyed killing human beings.

Truly, is it necessary to kill her just because she is a mazoku?

Such doubt floated in my head as I stopped my movement.

「Kill it Amatsu!」(Iori party members)

「Do it fast!!」(Iori party members)

As I heard my companions screaming voices echoing from behind.

Kill her or refusing to kill her. As I was in conflict, at the end I decided to throw down my sword.

「Huh?」(Iori)

Woosh, a sharp shock ran through my right arm.

After that shocking sound something fell to the ground, looking, I realized it was my own arm.

「Is.....this a joke?」(iori)

A magic launched from the rear had cut off my arm.

Fresh blood gushes out from where the arm was cut off, the attack that was received by me felt like heat created by molten iron.

The girl in front of me was blank in surprise.

「Gees, frankly speweing your over-optimism thought」(Luser)

The one that used the magic to cut off my arm was no other than my own companion, Luser.

The mage that was able to use different kinds of magic, is the mage who always supported me on this journey since the beginning.

My reliable companion who stood up to protect this kingdom.

Well thanks to that I was able to cut off your arm, right? \(\)(Luser)

My right arm in which once dwelled the power of a hero, now there's only the feeling of blood dropping from it.

As my strength is lost from my body, I fell down on my knee.

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「Why.....」(Iori)
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「Do you still not get it? From now on your part is over. Oh, dear Herosama.

By only using the arm that is packed with magical power, even me can finish off the Demon Queen, right \((Luser) \)

「What are you saying....」(Iori)

When I extended my left arm in order to join my right arm which was on the ground with healing magic, suddenly a spell ran through my chest.

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「Guh.....」(Iori)
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As the sense of vomiting was welling up, then, bright red blood was spewing out of my mouth.

Then smell of iron that was produced by me was spreading in the room.

「Hey Amatsu there's no hard feelings, okay?」(Dionis)

After assaulting me, those were the words that Dionis said.

Although being from another race apart from human, standing up to the tyranny of the Demon Queen army is a man from Onizoku.

A reliable companion who can use both magic and sword skills.

Why did they choose to attack me?

Have they been brainwashed by the mazoku?

I cannot understand the situation.

「Luser, it seems that Amatsu is unable to understand the situation?」(Dionis)

Me, who is wounded is dumb in surprise toward Dionis mockery.

Toh, how annoying... as a gift from a fellow companion I will tell you. As the Hero, Amatsu is being killed in the battle with the Demon Queen. The remaining three have successfully defeated the Demon Queen and while we mourn over your death we will return back in triumph to our country as heroes. It is a good scenario, right?

Luser which explained me his plan had an ugly expression on his face that I never seen before from him.

「Yeah thats right, as the Demon Queen is weakened your role ends here」(Dionis)

At the time I was being summoned an enormous magical power dwelled in my right arm.

The power that can only be used by an existence known as the "Hero".

Teven without the power of the Hero, the Maou will be slayed after I transfer the magical power to Luser afterwards. Your role ends here. Do

you understand now? \(\)(Dionis) \(#T/N \) maybe he mean transferring magical power from Iori right arm to Luser.

For the last three years. The companions that I spend time together in my journey were going to kill me while smirking at me.

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「Why is it.....」(Iori)
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As I lost my strength from my body I fell to the ground.

I saw the figure of Luser and Dionis smirking at me.

「Don't worry Amatsu., we will carry on your will and we will slay the Demon Queen for you!」(Luser)

「Lucifina」(Iori)

While ignoring the offensive words of Luser, I call for Lucifina.

The first woman who was kind to me in this world.

I wanted to believe that Lucifina is the only companion that I can trust.

「Amatsu-san」(Lucifina)

Lucifina called me with her usual gentle smile.

「After this please leave every thing to us, Your role is already over」(Lucifina)

「What.....?」(Iori)

But those eyes were emotionless as if saying "I do not want to look at Iori".

The se wait......what is it. We have our promise right....? After the war ends we were gonna make a world where there is no war, right? (Iori)

「Fufufu...」(Lucifina)

It was something that I couldn't bear, Lucifina bursted into laughter.

Just like that I was frozen hard from the shock.

Is she really Lucifina that I know.

「A world without war? Aaah......you thought of such a thing seriously, right? You just came from another world, trying to save this world? Don't you think you're being absurd?」(Lucifina)

「What.....?」(Iori)

What did you say?

「KUHAHA! It was masterpiece AMATSU, Its only you who was fighting with such an aim, only YOU!」(Lucifina)

「It was something that could only be seen in a dream, no?」(Lucifina)

My companions were smirking at me. Is this really real?

Even if I'd like to believe that it's a dream, the pain on my whole body is forcing me to accept it as reality.

「I already received the necessary magical power. Then Lucifina please clean up the rest over there」(Luser)

「Farewell Amatsu, have eternal rest and a pleasant dream as much as you like」(Lucifina)

By the word of Luser, Lucifina swings her sword that is being enhanced with magic toward me. Still,I'm barely moving my feet.But my heart was already broken.

「Good bye Hero Amatsu」(Lucifina)

Afterward, Lucifina swung down her sword.

I was slashed with a tremendous magical power then I broke through a wall and fell to the outside of the Maou Castle.

I do not feel the pain anymore.

However, only the words of betrayal were floating around.

Just what is the meaning the time that we spend together...

The eyes those guys were showing while smirking are stuck to my mind.

「Damn....it」

Was it wrong that I thought I'd like to bring the war to an end?

I wonder if there is anything that went wrong.

I do not understand it anymore, too.

The disappointment and intense hatred towards my companions.

"GUSHARI" sound is being heard that something being destroyed. Then my consciousness turned dark. This is the whole story that occured during my first summon. I am betrayed by a friend, being made fun of and in the end slayed as a Hero. •

stomp, stomp as the sound of footsteps echoes.

I open my eyes, I saw that it was the knight who went to report the king.

The number or people increased to five.

「You're being summoned by his Majesty the King」(knight)

As four knights were on guard, one knight has opened the prison door while holding a bundle of keys.

With that I was freed, without any restriction tool placed on me, I can run away if I want to do so. But I will not do such a thing. Before conducting such actions, there are lots of things that I don't understand yet.

Such as losing my magical power and the arm that should already be cut off. Let's examine it in various ways before acting.

There's nothing to rush.

I just need to show an obedient attitude, because there will be plenty of opportunities.

—I'm coming for you Luser.

As I suppress my lips from smirking. I came out of prison.

Episode 2: To Grasp The Situation

The request asked by King, it was a simple one.

I want you to fight and defeat the Demon King (King) That's all.

If I fight as a Hero, my well-being will be taken care of by them and I expect them to fulfill everything that I desire.

Such as, a much better treatment than my first time. They really need a Hero, right. I understand it as they decided to not punish me.

When I ask whether I can return to my original world, It is impossible at this stage is the reply I got. The magical power is exhausted after summoning me, the kingdom does not have enough magical power to send me back. If its six years, I will able to return back safely, thats what the King said.

Hah, so funny.

Back then it was <code>[four years]</code> and this time it is six years. So it increased by two years, huh. What this King says is not reliable at all.

But still, I said.

[As a Hero I will fight]

Of course, there is no such intention. It is just as pretext, to be shown on the surface as it will make everything easier and I'll be allowed to do a lot of things.

There should be a lot of opportunities to kill Luser.

In addition, I just got summoned and I do not understand the circumstances yet.

Finally, it is very likely that several years have passed because the current King is different from the last one. Before starting any actions, It will be wise for me to gather information first.

Thus, I became a Hero for this Kingdom on the surface.

That's right, I still don't know your name Hero-dono, can you tell me your

As we were parting, I answered to the words asked by the King.

「It's Amatsuki Iori」 (Iori) Of course, I do not answer using my last name, Amatsu.

♦

I will be made to obey the schedule that has been prepared by kingdom starting the following day.

In the morning I was teached about the knowledge of this world.

In the afternoon I have been taught tactics by a knight.

After dinner, I was instructed about magic by a mage.

In between, lunch break is being inserted, roughly like that.

Honestly, it's just a waste of time. The knight movements is so wasteful, even the guidance of the mage is inefficient and useless. The proficiency of the Knights corps and the mage is far lower than the first time I was here.

However, I must pretend to hear it like it was the first time so that I will not be doubted.

Because of Luser case the impression about me was worst. I was being monitored by the mage around the clock.

It is possible for me to pass through supervision, but that isn't a wise choice.

It is necessary to proceed carefully, the reason is because in my present condition I am unable to use magic.

I decide to devoted myself to information gathering until the supervision loosened, and act as an obedient Hero for a while.



Ten days have already passed after being summoned.

Since then, the supervision has loosened and it was possible for me to walk freely at night.

I go to the library during the sunset after completing all the schedule for the

day.

In the library that is filled with the smell of old paper, I pick up the book that describes things regarding the ex-hero "Amatsu".

Performing information gathering around this for a few days, I came to understand.

Somehow it seems that already thirty years have passed since that day,

As expected, even knowing this I'm surprised with how much time that has passed.

Of course a new King is on the throne.

When reconsidering carefully that guy, Luser was getting old too.

Even though.

Apparently, the Maou Ortega seems alive.

「It's completely a masterpiece」 (Iori)

When knowing this, I have bursted out in laughter unconsciously at such absurdity.

In brief, Luser has failed in the subjugation of the Demon Queen.

Although he laughed saying that "I can slay the Demon Queen even if you aren't here".

Just for what reason have I been killed, my laughter stopped from that question.

Afterwards, the Maou continues to collect his power inside the Demon King castle.

Before the Maou begins to move, the Kingdom summoned the Hero in a hurry.

Because the library of the kingdom had books about Hero Amatsu and the Maou, it was easy to examine it.

And the description was quite different from the facts.

Apparently it seems that I've been killed by the Maou.

Despite the fact that I've not even reached the original Maou.

Then, there was a strange point that caught my concern about the books in the library.

The names of Lucifina and Dionis are not described anywhere. As if the existence of those two suddenly disappeared from the party. If they died it is understandable, but this is quite abnormal.

There is no figure of those two in the castle either. Except for Dionis that came from Onizoku. Anyhow, as for Lucifina who has belonged to kingdom knight corps to be nowhere found was a bit strange. It seems to be necessary to check information about them in one way or another.

```
So, there no result is it... (Iori)
```

After all there is no name of those two, even though I searched in "Amatsu" related books.

After getting my hands on the book that piqued my interest, I left the library.

By deliberately taking a detour, I headed to my room. The reason is because I want to completely grasp the structure of the palace. It has been renovated, the position and number of the room has changed in some places, but I roughly memorize it in my head.

In the middle of my walk, I pass by several palace attendants. Although everybody lowers their head and greets me, all of them have expressions of despise on their faces.

```
「···..that, did he go to the library again?」 (Palace Attendant)
```

☐ He should train his magic before searching for books. ☐ (Palace Attendant)

As I heard two persons that passed as they criticize me behind my back.

Is the matter about me being unable to use magic exposed already?

As fact, the events with Luser are being related, there seems to be a lot of dissatisfaction towards the second generation Hero. At first it was 「Herodono」 and now 「That」 so that's how they refer me behind my back, huh.

Even if the magical power is not usable, there is some technique. Because I learned how to use my senses in a battlefield, I can hear some voices even if its far. Those guys don't think I've heard that, huh.

「Amatsuki Iori-dono. Is he really a Hero? He can't even use magic, isn't he just a brat?」 (unknown) When passing by a room, I stopped abruptly when I heard my name. Apparently, it is likely that they talk about me. Four or five people are in there.

[·····tsu!] (unknown) They are discussing in a low voice, but I heard a familiar voice.

「Without a doubt he is a Hero. Even if he's like that. When he'll face off the demon army, he's going to die instantly, right? 」 (unknown)

The one with the hoarse voice was Luser. Somehow, it seems to be a talk among his the fellow mage friends.

I calm myself since I almost stormed in the room, I feel the killing intent inside me.

「Unable to use magical power, he is not useful at all」 (mage)

「Yeah…even if he is the worst at least being able to face off with the King Four Devas, its not likely that he's going to be completely useless

 (Luser)

I've been taken back as Luser said those words.

```
「·····.damn」 (Iori)
```

My head becomes blank from the anger. Somehow manage to refrain myself by biting my lips. If I start the fight here, my act created by behaving obediently will be wasted.

The days of Luser-dono fighting together with Hero Amatsu. Why did Amatsu-dono...... (mage) Luser answered the question as such

 \lceil He was a brave man. That aimed for world peace, he had somewhat of an ideal that was suited for a Hero. I want to realize the ideal created by him, but...... I regret that it turned out to be like this \rfloor (Luser)

And that's.

What Luser said while perform an act without the slightest bit of shame.

—-It was only you who had fought with such an aim, only YOU.

Then who was that person that smirking at me back then?

```
「Oh....now I understand」 (Iori)
```

After all he was that kind of guy.

There are still uses even if the Hero is useless (Iori)

As Luser said such words behind my back, I returned to my room while holding back my boiling anger that wanted to kill him.

Then, after one week.

—I begin carrying out my plans.

Episode 3: The thirty years of reunion

Two o'clock in the morning.

The castle falls into silence as is getting late and the night is here.

The knight on patrol held a light in his hand while walk around the palace. At night the light is being turned off inside the palace for economy reason, since an immense amount of magical powers was consumed during the Hero summoning. Illuminating the darkness of the palace was only a small light in their hands produced by their own magic.

「And.....there is no abnormality in the palace ground. Hah, this is really troublesome

(Knight)

The knight complains after he had a big yawn. Doing patrolling work on a shift is the job disliked by everyone. It is agitating to do patrolling inside of a palace that is wrapped in darkness and above all, the bed time is shortened.

Previously, at night the palace has actually been lit using the magic item. That's why doing patrols was more fun before, but after summoning the Hero there are no lights at night anymore.

The summoned Hero can't even use magic and is really worthless, he's just average. I'm gonna kill him after the magical power has been accumulated. I wonder if the next Hero will not scream like him after being summoned. Even I can kill that weak brat easily (Knight)

Because the Hero brought him inconvenience, he was expecting the Hero to be at least more useful. While expressing a mutter considering the Hero just a tool, the knight goes ahead through the patrol route.

He moved forward as he passed exactly in front of the room where the Hero that he held dissatisfaction against was staying.

Suddenly from behind he heard "KOTSUN" as something fell.

「Tsu」 (Knight)

While stretching out a hand on the sword placed at his waist the knight looks back with "BA". When he tries illuminating with the light on his other hand there was nobody there.

As he advanced while being cautious suddenly a stone was rolled on the floor. It's just an ordinary stone that belonged in the palace garden. What was it doing here. The moment when the knight bended his body to pick up the stone.

Then "KOTSUN" at the back of his head, with a blunt impact he sees fireworks in his mind. As for not losing consciousness, it was thanks to his armor that has magic protection on it. While still withstanding his consciousness that might fly off any moment, the knight pulled his sword quickly and made a swing at his rear.

The person who stood in the rear was able dodge it by slipping through it. On the contrary, like a magic trick the sword which he swung down in an instant has been snatched.

```
「Wha~」 (Knight)
```

At that moment when he opened his mouth trying to call for help, at that instant the hilt of a sword that was snatched is slammed right into the Knight face. In the most painful part of the body then is followed by a hit at the back of the head. Then he saw sparks of fireworks in his mind as his sight was slowly getting dark.

```
「Ah」 (Knight)
```

In his waning consciousness, the knight murmured as he saw the face of the assailant unintentionally.

Back then 「even I can kill」 that was what you muttered, the worthless Hero that can't even use magic.

Amatsuki Iori was right there.

His spine went cold as his eye meet a figure of a boy with cold eyes. Then the

knight completely lost his consciousness.

「Fuu」 (Iori)

I hide the fainted knight into my room, then release out a small breath.

「I just made a terrible blunder」 (Iori)

It was just a low rank knight but his armor was being applied with protection magic. I still assume that I was good at delivering a blow, but it seems that my strength has really dropped. I was not aware about this because during training we were just using wooden swords.

```
「···.alright」 (Iori)
```

I reflect on my over-optimism and I better change my way of thinking immediately. I was able to gain a sword from the knight on patrol.

The first stage is clear.

I take a few swings to cope a feel. Although its just a mass production item but the magical power is included, and it's easy to use to some degree. It should be much useful than my previous wooden sword. Because the armor is more likely to just get in the way I just leave it.

Already two weeks passed since I came here. All the information from library have already been memorized by me. I completely grasped the structure of the palace altogether with knight patrol routes and their number. Played the totally helpless dorky as I pretend to be a powerless good-for-nothing Hero, was successfully done as that method greatly makes them lower their awareness towards me.

By the fact that the weapon was obtained, everything was well prepared

「Finally」 (Iori)

Finally I will face off with Luser.

During that time I was observing his movement carefully.

I suppressed myself as I was about to lift my lips when I saw someone coming out from a room.

It was Luser, on his way to the magic atelier. *magic workshop

That bastard was there.

「Just you wait Luser」 (Iori)

♦

「·····tch」 (Luser)

Luser was in his magic atelier, he clicked his tongue as he felt irritated. The source of the irritation was the summoned Hero, Amatsuki Iori.

On the first day of the summoning he was hit till he fainted. The wounds he received from Iori are already healed using healing magic. However, Luser anger is not settled yet.

Being opposed by an existence that was just meant to be used, It was awfully irritating.

Starting from that day Luser tried to make a proposal with the King. Amatsuki Iori is dangerous and should be enslaved using "Slavery Magic".

The purpose of slavery magic is mainly just to enslave a person. By having the target actions limited and forcing the target to perform an action according to the instructions. Luser is confident that he will be able to enslave the Hero if he was given time to prepare the necessities.

But, the King rejected his proposal, as the Hero is still under monitoring. Already twenty days have passed but the permission was not being received yet.

Luser was irritated because of that.

The main source of irritation is being defeated by a Hero that doesn't have magical power. Even if the Hero himself is worthless and insignificant he should be used till his end.

Being hit by the worthless Hero that he summoned by himself. It really affected his very own reputation.

[Even if he was a good-for-nothing Hero, the "The Proof of Hero" on his arm was the real deal. If I cut off the arm, then I will be able to obtain its massive

magical power for myself (Luser)

-like last time with that idiot. T/N time when Amatsu arm got cut off

Even when he obtained the proof of Hero he can't take all the Hero massive magical power by himself. By using that, the Hero himself was able to have a rapid growth, that was the evidence. But, if I obtain that massive magical power, even without "That" Hero even I can manage to do something.

Luser was planning to perfect his method of snatching magical power from the "proof of Hero". The permission is not granted by the King. However, as long it will bear a result it will be fine.

By using the power of the Hero, Luser himself will become the Hero. When he imagined about the future he was laughing by himself.

[.....!] (Luser) As the atelier door suddenly opened, a boy entered inside. When Luser saw that, he stared in shock unintentionally.

Amatsuki Iori-dono.

While thinking about usurping the power of the Hero, the Hero himself was there.

He warned the Hero by sending an intimidating glare. However, instead of being intimidated, Iori himself was laughing to sneer it

「Hearing you bastard talking with a polite tone, I could not help it but laugh unconsciously」 (Iori)

```
「····· What did you say?」 (Luser)
```

As Luser veins pop on his forehead only contempt and indescribable words were spurted by him.

Not only selfishly entering the atelier by himself, but to suddenly display such a mocking attitude. With the position of "The rubbish Hero that can't even use magic", to make a fool of a Imperial Court Magician as himself, it is not acceptable.

-Is he going to take some proof out from this place?

The method to snatch power from "proof of power" already succeeded once. In the later research, he was trying to research a more efficient way. The preparations were almost complete, currently there's no room for improvement but it is already on stage of testing.

The only thing remaining is to take the "proof". Because the atelier was made from the soundproof material, noise will not leak outside. There is no need to worry about interruption, because he entered here in the middle of the night.

☐ I can't let you get out from this atelier after everything you have heard here☐ (Luser)

Then he focused his magical power aiming at Iori's arm from Iori blind spot. The magic he intented to use was a capture magic.

Although his battle strength has fallen significantly from the time he fought with Amatsu. The current Hero is just a brat and it will be just like taking candy from a baby.

As Luser was forming a smile on his lips, he lick his lips while saying "I'm gonna make you regret".

```
As for your plan..... (Iori)
```

Iori quickly bend his waist.

「Are you trying to kill me using the same method you killed Amatsu?」
(Iori)

```
「Wha…!?」 (Luser)
```

Just like that, Luser felt a shock similar to being hit by a blunt object. In front of his eyes was a Hero that knew something that should not be known by others. His magic activation was delayed by the truth that should be a secret to anyone but the Hero.

After that Iori made his move quickly. As he kicked the floor then jumped halfway and started running. With the speed comparable to a beast, Luser thoughts were returning to him.

[Kuh...!?] (Luser) Iori moved at a terrifying speed, Luser released his magic

in a state of panic. By using the thunder magic which seals movement and cause paralysis to target. Thunder approaches Iori while bursting with "PACHI PACHI".

But.

```
「Wha!?」 (Luser)
```

lori avoided it using a slide movement as the thunder aim was slightly missed caused by the commotion.

—In an instant without wasting any movement lori moved toward Luser.

Like a veteran Warrior, movement that was not giving any openings to Luser.

As the idea of capturing was completely lost from his head, he resorted to magic specialized for killing and wounding.

```
[Ahh!?] (Luser)
```

When Iori arm moved slightly, blood gushed out from Luser's arm which was going attack using magic. Before he knew it, Iori arms were holding a knight sword.

Arghhhhhh!? (Luser) Consequently even the opposite shoulder was being pierced by the blade. Even with the protection given by the robe, it can't completely nullify the damage given. The blade gouged out flesh from his shoulder.

Even if he screams, the scream doesn't leak from the atelier as it was made from soundproof material.

As the sword was being pulled out, lori thrusted it again towards Luser neck.

 \lceil Your weakness of sloppy aim when confused, it seems to not be cured yet, huh \rfloor (Iori)

```
「Wh…who the hell are you」 (Luser)
```

「Do you still not understand yet?」 (Iori)

It was a freezing cold voice. With the kind of look that penetrated one's soul, Luser feels like a Deja vu.

```
[Im.....posible] (Luser)
```

「Thats right」 (Iori)

With the expression which had the trace of his former companion, lori said.

「Luser it's me, Amatsu」 (Iori)

Episode 4: The Moment of Despair

In the magic atelier that fell in silence. Luser's face was getting paler seeming like blood was drained from his body by the knight's sword that was pointed at his throat.

```
「Whats wrong Luser. It looks as if you've seen a ghost」 (Iori)
「·····...Is that really you Amatsu? b-because you had been」 (Luser)

「I should have been murdered by you?] (Iori)
```

To have spoken the information that should not be known by Amatsuki Iori, that moment he seemed to have understood that I am Amatsu. Then with his eyes wide open suddenly he began yelling in a trembling voice.

It's impossible! I certainly summoned a hero without a doubt! But why are you bastard here!? Whats with that appearance!? Why..... (Luser)

```
「Shut up!」 (Iori)
```

「Guaaaaah」 (Luser) Even the knight's sword that is enhanced with magic, it was unable to go through Luser body completely. The robe which this bastard wears seems to have protection magic with a high defense.

```
「Please wait AMATSU! Please don't kill me!!」 (Luser)
```

「····· Don't kill me? Don't you think your request is too selfish? 」 (Iori)

Do you think that I will forgive you?

Even a joke has its limits.

[It's different! I was tricked by Dionis too!!] (Luser)

I heard that name right when I was raising up the knight sword, a name that stopped my movement instantly.

"You were deceived by Dionis?"

Both of Lucifina and Dionis, said that "If Amatsu is killed we can divide the

glory of slaying the Moau for ourselfs!" \((Luser) \)

「···..Oi, are you still trying to spurt lies even at your last moment?」 (Iori)

NO! IT'S TRUE! Is the truth, both these bastards were saying that as they approached me! (Luser)

With a really desperate look, Luser explained.

A few days before we marched towards the Maou castle. "We will wait until the right timing before we kill Amatsu". Both of them approached Luser while suggesting that.

```
「After that you board in, right?」 (Iori)
```

「Ye…yeah……B-but, it not just me! As for the people who participated as a support for the fight at the Maou Castle, there are lot of people boarded in and participated in this!」 (Luser)

Allied forces that consist of humans and demi-humans banded together to defeat the Maou forces.

An ogre group and several other races such as wolf races also participated in that, He says that they cooperated with the plan to kill me.

Luser spoke a name of the people with "Bera Bera".

```
[Ah..... those fellows] (Iori)
```

I remember instantly after I heard that name. That nobody, a guy that approached me by approving my ideal but was unwilling to cooperate. I smile because I still remember the voice of those people that I proposed cooperation with.

So they took part in exchange for money and honor for killing me.

```
「Kuku.....」 (Iori)
```

"For peace sake, I will cooperate with the humans". As I remember believing such word being told by them, my laughter overflows unintentionally. I want to beat to death the former me from that time, the one that was happy because he was recognized as a Hero.

```
「After that?」 (Iori)
```

```
[Hiiiii!?] (Luser)
```

Calmly I urged Luser to continue, he was edging back as he saw me who bursted into laughter.

Thus, we moved according to the strategy made by Lucifina (Luser)

The demi-humans that were following my party, they were instructed to pretend to be a Mazoku and hold the humans who were going to march into the Maou castle. To create a situation where nobody will come to help me.

「Oh that's why the army that was attacking the enemy from behind us was unable to enter the castle, huh?」 (Iori)

I understand Luser words. Looking from his expression while telling what had happen I can tell that he's not lying.

Afterwards, it was something that I knew.

They cut my right arm which had the power of the hero dwelling in with the timing when I fought against the Mazoku. With only the magic from Luser it is enough to defeat the Maou that was weakened. Therefore, after I used up my magical power fighting against the Mazoku, they planned to get rid of me who was unnecessary.

```
Now I get it..... (Iori)
```

For those two who worked out such a strategy, in the end they casted both Luser and the demi-humans away.

```
「Well, you were deceived and why should I care about that?」 (Iori)
```

■ Both DIONIS and LUCIFINA were spy for the demon force, don't you see!

【Luser】

```
「···.. What?」 (Iori)
```

Those two were spies of the Maou forces? Unintentionally I responded in a shocked tone. But the desperate expression of Luser did not seem to tell a lie.

```
「After killing you I was surprised by Dionis "With AMATSU dead, you're done, too!" then I was betrayed by them, too!  

(Luser)
```

After he said that, Luser turned up his hem and showed his arm. I can see a

deep wound like being carved there. He said that it was a scar left by Dionis.

After killing me, those two seem to have discarded Luser and their promise with the demi-humans.

「Then how did you survive?」 (Iori)

「Lucifina said, "A human who conveyed that the Hero has lost is necessary", hearing that Dionis stopped attacking me......! 」 (Luser)

Luser has been overlooked just to convey about [the defeat of Amatsu] and [betrayal of Lucifina and the Dionis] to the humans. Luser which fled back to the kingdom seems to have reported that "Lucifina and Dionis have betrayed him and Amatsu was killed."

As he was discarded by those two, he can't laugh about it shrewdly like he did to me, huh.

「With that, Lucifina, Dionis and those demi-humans. Everyone who approved of this strategy, where are they now?」 (Iori)

「Both Lucifina and Dionis are with the Maou forces together with Onizoku that came along with them too. The demi-human wolf races are being cut off, they probably are at the hot spring city that is under allied powers now......! 」 (Luser)

```
[Is that so.....] (Iori)
```

There are no guarantees that what Luser said is the truth.

But I understand that the name of those two have disappeared from the book records. The Hero that was murdered by his companions is something that would not be published. Besides, one of the traitors was the knight whom the kingdom elected itself.

The consistency matches with various things.

T-then!? Is not my fault, right! They tricked me too! I'm a victim too, right!! (Luser)

Luser was shouting while stomping his foot.

What he said is the truth. Certainly, he and those demi-humans have been

tricked by those two. When I remember that both Lucifina and Dionis continued acting to deceive me, only the urge to kill springs out.

But.

Even so, it does not change the fact that Luser had betrays me. I cannot allow it.

Then will you cooperate with we, Amatsu! We will kill those two who had betrayed us! You may retaliate to those demi-humans who had betrayed you! So let's defeat the Maou together this time! If it you, I'm really sure that you should be able to do it!] (Luser)

Luser which has a twitched smile is extending his hand towards me.

On the other hand I-

```
Shut up!! (Iori)
```

I swung down my sword vigorously. Then fresh blood begins to spurt as the flesh that was protected by the robe is slightly slashed.

```
「Ahhhh.....! The blood is.....Amatsu, what are you—」 (Luser)

□ Do you think that what you've done is forgiven? □ (Iori)
```

As Luser realized his coerce was being rejected he fell on the ground. Surely this bastard has been deceived.

However. The fact that he had betrayed me does not change.

Did he think that I will let him cover my back again, huh.

I laugh at his absurd foolishness.

「·····Luser, tell me how to get to rite of passage and the way to unseal the treasure storage」 (lori)

It's an important place that is being sealed by mages carefully. To untie this either destroy it using magic that exceeds the seals or speak of words that had been decided beforehand.

```
「Seal? What are you gonna do with it?」 (Luser)
「Just spill it」 (Iori)
```

When I thrust my sword at him, Luser tells me the cancellation method for the seal with his screams. Judging from his expression, I can tell that he's not lying. With this, I have everything that I need to know from him.

But, one more.

```
「·····Finally tell me 」(Iori)
```

I want to hear it, even if I knew "it" nothing will change. However, there's one thing that I still want to hear by all means.

It is about my past aim that I wanted to bring the...... war to an end and create a world in which every race can coexist. I thought that both Lucifina and you all thought the same and fought with same objective as me. However as for the truth, is that all of you, having sneered at me, did I had such thoughts by myself? \(\) (Iori)

Because there were the three of you, I was able to continue fighting. For the first time, for me that was always dragged by the flow,I was able to set my objective that I want to achieve in my life. Was all of that just a mistake?

[I......t-thought that it was an impossible dream. Even if the Maou is defeated, the possibility to coexist was zero | (Luser)

Is what Luser said.

The human did not intend to coexist with the Mazoku. The side that resisted will be annihilated and the side that surrendered will be turnd into slaves. Such a future will be waiting for both sides after the war end.

```
「Ah…Is that so?」 (Iori)
```

The answer came out of me.

Something like coexistence is absurd. I was only been dragged in by the ideal that was told by my former companions after all. If I cannot do well with my own companions, then to coexist with many other races surely will be impossible.

Hah, I was disappointed. For me to believe all of them, even though they themselves weren't.

```
「Hah, everything that I need to hear from you is—」 (Iori)
```

That's right Amatsu, There is something that I must show you

(Luser)

Luser impatiently interrupted my words and pointed to the shelf inside the atelier.

```
「…..WHAT?」 (Iori)
```

```
[I understand, walk to the place] (Iori)
```

I make Luser lead the way while thrusting the sword towards him. There was a shelf that lined with the research materials.

「I never thought that you will be able to survive......By all means how did you survive from that? And this appearance 」 (Luser)

```
「 ··· Shut up and just walk. There is nothing that I need to tell you 」 (Iori)
```

Even I want to know myself what happened. About me being alive it was related with the summons by the kingdom for the second time. Even so, I don't feel like I should thank the kingdom for it.

```
[There it is ..... here] (Luser)
```

As Luser arrived in front of the shelf he opened a door by stuffing his hand inside.

「Now, Amatsu. Did you say that symbiosis was not possible a while ago? I surely thought so at that time. However, now it is different

(Luser)

Luser's talking while moving his hand with a rustling sound.

I understood that you were right starting from that time. I even regretted that I murdered you all this time. That makes me think that I'd like to atone for my sin.....! (Luser)

I only heard Luser talking quietly with a shaking voice while his shoulders were shaking.

So, Amatsu. You gonna leave the kingdom, right? Then, please let me help. I should be able to take you out safely! Please I'd like to cooperate with you! (Luser)

```
「····· Do you really think so?」 (lori)
「Yes! It's true!」 (Luser)
「Is that so......?」 (lori)
```

In the middle of the talk, the thing that he was searching for has been found. The hand Luser stuffed in the shelf was returned.

```
[Watch this......before that, there's something that I want to tell you] (Luser)
```

Luser that seems to have grasped something turns towards me.

```
「Even from back then you're still too naive!!」 (Luser)
```

With his hand imbued with magical power, he thrusts it towards me. His fingertip is strengthened by the magic, and has sharpness rivalling a blade.

```
「BAAAKA!」 (Luser)
```

The finger sharp as a blade thrusted towards me is able to split my body easily if it hits.

```
That is "If it hits".
```

```
「Wha!?」 (Luser)
```

Without letting the knife-hand blow reach me. He just cut the empty air. As I was being cautious getting attacked by Luser, I already prepared myself by staying in a position that enables me to dodge immediately.

I already understand it. A good thing to say, everything about the fact that concern with his perfidious attack—.

This bastard was excellent for a mage, but really bad for close combat. Maybe the old age was getting him, or probably because of the wound inflicted by Dionis, his movement is getting dull.

Even to the degree of an easy dodge, it is possible even with the current me.

```
[Hiii] (Luser)
```

Luser twitched his face and screamed. The moment that I dodge his attack I

was going to slash using the knight sword aiming at his neck.

That instant Luser rolled up his robe. On the back of the crimson robes is carved with shining coat of arms.

The moment I die, the magical power that is being stored packed inside my body will explode! If you kill me here, will you die together with me!? (Luser)

He stored his magical power, and it was packed? From the crest which shines in red, I felt an ominous amount of magical power from it. If I kill Luser, an explosion would really happen on a scale that will blow off the entire palace.

```
「Hi,Hihihi」 (Luser)
```

Luser laughs with his whole heart.

In addition, it not just you will die. Everyone in the whole palace will be wasted! The innocent people that are not related with your summoning will be burned too! THEN, do you still want to kill ME!? (Luser)

Luser changed completely from a frightened expression to a smirking and aggressive smile. I was impressed unconsciously when I saw that a human being could turn into such unsightly form.

「 So you don't have the guts to kill me? Back then, you bastard couldn't even slay the Maou,huh. THATS because you are really soft!」 (Luser)

By showing the arm of the coat, Luser cut down our distance by making himself a bait. While putting his finger near his neck on purpose he was showing an arrogant attitude.

```
Try it, if you dare to kill me! Huh, Ama—」(Luser)
```

I draw a kick which sank onto Luser's face. The feeling where the bone of the nose breaks is transmitted from my foot.

```
「GOhEh!?」 (Luser)
```

From the impact of my kick, Luser crashed through the window made for ventilation which was right behind his back. As he broke through it he fell in a upside down position.

「Gyaaaaaa」 (Luser)

His last moment squeal left its traces till I didn't hear it anymore after that. This room is pretty high. If a human fell down, certainly he won't survive.

However, there is no explosion.

Even falling from this height, that scum is still alive.

It is the story of three decades ago, that bastard was the world's strongest Mage. He may have gotten considerably weak, but it's impossible for him to die from such a degree.

Such unpleasant confidence (Iori)

I see, as far as there is that robe, Luser can't be killed. At a glance, even if I strip him forcibly it seems that the device is still gonna be activate.

And even if I fight him one on one with my current state, it wouldn't be possible to win against him. I may have succeeded this time, but I can't think it will work for the second time.

[·····It is necessary for me to recover my power] (Iori)

If I have my former power, even if that robe is invoked I can withstand it.

Even if I fight him head on I'll surely be able to kill him.

And I also have to go to meet those two who were the spies of the Maou forces. To the people from the demi-humans which I heard their names from Luser, I must give my gratitude to them.

The future plan was decided. I must regain former power and retaliate against those people. A plot about how to regain my power back, I thought of it already.

For that purpose, let's move to the next action. There are several things which should be done yet. Gratitude must be shown to the kingdom which summoned me here selfishly.

「Oh, thats right」 (Iori)

I let out a small laugh, at the memory of the falling Luser. It'll also be fun to try if it will cost him dearly afterwards.

「Just you wait」 (Iori)

I muttered as I left the magic atelier.

Episode 5: Fall Into the Traps

「Gu......hah」(Luser)

Luser was writhing in pain in a courtyard of the palace.

He felt heavy dull pain on his back from being slammed during his fall. Because he barely managed to react during the fall, he was lucky to not be killed on the spot by the impact.

In addition, his nose was broken, arm and his shoulder were bleeding from the earlier slash, those things were giving him a strong pain that felt "JIKUJIKU".

Because of the acute pain, his breathing became intense.

「 Hah, hah, damn it.....damn it, that bastard Ama...tsu!」 (Luser)

Several minutes later, after his pain barely subsided, Luser raised up. He raged abusively while raising his breath.

That shit.....! He dares to do this to me
 ∫ (Luser)

That naive stupid brat with his worthless ideal that had no clue he was just being used. From Luser perpective, Iori is such an existence. To make a fool out of him, is something that he's unable to forgive.

To let myself tremble before such a small fry.....! (Luser)

I didn't felt any magical power from Iori, is that the compensation from his death? I don't really understand what caused him to be the second Hero summoned.

If Iori doesn't have the power of the Hero, even I can kill him by strangling him with my bare hands.

I was only taken by surprise this time.

Luser looked up towards the magic atelier, then spitted as he remembered that he let himself fall from such a sneak attack.

「Ku...kuku! I will make you regret it. I'll kill you thoroughly this time so that you may never ever be revived again! 」 (Luser)

Taking advantage while I was in confusion, next time I will not repeat such mistakes again.

Luser healed his wounds using healing magic while floating a distorted smile. There is no trouble for me to cure a wound of this degree.

```
    If its that guy where would he go ─ 」 ( Luser)
```

If he cannot use magic then, it is impossible for him to escape from this kingdom. He has no choice but to move using some special ways.

The ceremonial chamber is where the "Summon Formation" is located and the access was granted by the Kingdom Monarch only.

The structure is simillar with the "Metastasis formation" that enables the performing of teleportations.

With the knowledge of Iori, this is likely where he will be able to perform metastasis using the summon formation.

Just around ten minutes passed since then. In such a short period of time it's impossible for Iori to have left the palace already. He should still be around.

Right after that Luser dashed towards the door of the palace.

```
    Hei! Is there anyone!? 
    ∫ (Luser)
```

Reacting to Luser shouts, the nearby Knight came over to attend him. He command the Knight to hastily rush towards the ceremonial chamber. With such an expression that was shown by Luser, The knight cannot interject him and just followed his order.

As Luser arrived at the ceremonial chamber the seal was already being canceled. For the knight who came shortly after him, when he saw the seal he panicked while screaming "whats the meaning of this!".

```
「 Shit..!!! 」 ( Luser)
```

Luser stepped inside chamber going between the seals. The inside was lighted and lori was standing in the center of the room.

Looking at the figure of the Hero, the knight was in panic. When watching Luser which stepped inside, Iori's calm expression did not break.

```
    That was fast Luser 
    ∫ (Iori)
```

The appearance of lori who muttered this was greatly different from the one that meet up with Luser in the atelier.

He noticed that Iori was wearing high quality magic clothes and had the treasure sword hung on his waist.

The items that were supposeed to be kept in the palace Treasure Room.

```
「You bastard……!」 (Luser)
```

While observing Iori appearance, Luser noticed a stone laying near him. It wasn't just a mere stone but is special ore that confined magical power in it, it was known as \[Magic Stone \]

Even if someone doesn't have magical power, anyone could use magic with the \[\begin{aligned} Magic stone \extstyle \text{ as it provided oneself with magical power. T/N should I use MP instead of Magical Power?}

By using the Magic Stone I Iori had interfered with the summon formation.

☐ Amatsu, YOU BASTARD! Move from that summon position AT ONCE !! ☐ (Luser)

```
「A — Amatsu!? Luser-dono what are you talking about.......」 (Iori)
```

As expected, Luser realizes that lori intends to metastasize using the summon formation. The formation was already rewritten by Iori.

Realizing that advance preparation had been made by Iori, Luser's impatience grew and shouted the name of Amatsu uncounciously. Luser did not noticed the

Knight being suprised by it.

Iori with a cold expression and Luser with a irritated one were glaring at each other.

At that time.

Appearing in the ceremonial chamber is the King that was followed by more than a few Knights has stepped with "DOKADOKA". And immediately noticed the existence of Iori, \[\text{WHAT!?} \] the King raised his voice with a shocked expression..

```
「 Your Majesty, this......」 ( Luser)
```

Regarding the circumstances Luser panicked and tried to quickly make and excuse.

 \lceil It was helpful Luser.Thanks to you I could solve the seal, and learned to use the summons formation \rfloor (Iori)

It was a completely different tone from the one full of hatred at the atelier. Iori was talking to Luser using a really friendly voice. The gaze of everyone in there, instantly moved towards Luser.

In that instant. The summons formation emited dazzling brightness completely dyeing the ceremonial chamber.

Soon after having muttered so. The figure of Iori was swallowed by the light.

```
「 Wa-wait AMATSU!!」 ( Luser)
```

Though he was trying to cast magic immedietly, it was already too late for him to do so. The figure of lori vanished from the ceremonial chamber, leaving him helpless without being able to do anything. Everyone in the chamber was staring at the spot where lori stood a while ago with faces that showed utter amazement.

It was the King that came to his senses first. Luser! What is the meaning of this, and what is that about having you teach him how to solve the seal? (King's) The King's approached Luser in a the state of rage. Tha.....that is a misunderstanding Your Majesty
 ∫ (Luser) While edging back, Luser was trying to make an excuse. "PATAPATA" Suddenly, a Knight entered the ceremonial chamber in haste. Your Majesty! The seal of the treasure room has been cancelled by someone, and a lot of items being kept inside are gone! \(\) (Knight) The 『 Magic Stone 』, the treasured sword, magical garments and items that grant magical power, In addition Magic Bracelet of Defense Magic Ring of Strength 1 that were among the national treasure that are also gone....! (Knight) The King expression turned pale after hearing the reports. Magic Stone provided power source to light the palace and perform large scale magic, it was a important power souce for various usage. Let alone the magical items, even the national treasure including \(\bar{\bar{\text{Magic}}} \) Magic Bracelet of Defense], is the valuable item that was inherited generation after generation by the kingdom monarch. The plundering is really a unprecendented event.

```
「─ Luser 」 ( King)
```

Luser position as the Imperial Court Magician that participated in cancelling the seal of the treasure storage and the ceremonial chamber. The seal can easily be solved only with the help of Luser. Of course, for that reason he will be accused —.

☐ P-please wait! I will discover the wherebouts of the Hero immediatly! ☐ (Luser)

With the current situation Luser realized that he should use the summons

formation to track lori whereabouts. Then he moved to touch the formation and read the destination of where lori went to.

Even with Iori's knowledge, it was impossible for him to fully conceal his destination. Luser instantaneously tried to grasp where Iori metastasis destination went to.

```
「 Kuku.....!」 (Luser) That guy is still naive as ever.
```

While laughing in his heart, he tried to convince the King that he will able to grasp the metastasis location by touching the summon formation.

```
「 Wha ─ ? 」 ( Luser)
```

As a "PARIN" sound was made, the summon formation broke into pieces and was scattered.

```
「 W-what th ─!? 」
```

At that time, Luser noticed that the summon formation was being casted with Self-destruction magic.

If humans except Iori touched it, the summons position will break.

But only Luser understood what happened to it. From others viewpoint, Luser seems to have broken the summon formation.

To broke the seal of the treasure room and the ceremonial chamber, then let the Hero escape. Besides that, even to destroy the summon formation, What are you thinking about!?

☐ (King)

「 You are wrong, Your Majesty! I'll never do such things! Everything was done by Amatsu....that guy alone!! 」 (Luser)

As Luser's mouth keep mentioning [Amatsu] name unconciously this had been noticed. The friendly attitute of lori toward Luser, parting with words such as "thanks to you I could solve the seal, and learned how to use the summons formation".

Luser which shattered the summons formation, seems to totally try to cover it.

As for him that keeps mentioning the name of his former companion [Amatsu]. By still to refering lori as Amatsu, of course it makes him seem like an accomplice.

「 Seize Luser right NOW!!」 (King)

Inside the Rite of Passage, the King order echoes. The instant Luser was trying to make some excuse in a hurry, the Knights rushed. The helpless Luser was being pinned down on the ground.

「A......Arghhhh!」 (Luser)

At that moments, Luser finally noticed. That he was trapped by Iori.

「 DAMN IT...Arghhhhhh!!」 (Luser)

Luser scream echoes inside the ceromonial chamber.



As I remember the scene during the transfer, I laughed a bit.

It was a light idea, but I didn't think it will go well to that extent. Despite just putting on an act, using such a friendly tone and talking to that guy, it make me feel like vomiting.

From that development, probably at this time Luser must be thoroughly investigated by the King. If it become an issue, the highest posibility is that he will be thrown into the prison.

Considering that, the sudden disappearance of metastasis light made it possible to see.

When I opened my eyes, I was standing in a dark cave.

The ground and wall made of rock which makes "gotsugotsu" sound, As the space was being lit up there are countless particle that rise into the air.

```
「 I succeeded 」 ( Iori)
```

By rewritting the metastasis formation it's possible to move to a distant place instantaneously. It's a technique of summoning position. Although it was constructed in a hurry, I was able to arrive at the destination safely. My purpose

in that palace can be said to be already accomplished, except my revenge against Luser.

After leaving the magic atelier, I went to the treasure room first. Solved the seal and took some items from inside there.

There's a large quantity of <code>[Magic Stone]</code> being stored by the Kingdom. Items such as a robe that grants magic defense and the treasure sword with a large quantity of magical power. A pouch which has <code>[Storing Magic]</code>, which enables the user to store items in large quantities.

Then I also took \(\bigcap \) Magic Bracelet of Defense \(\bigcap \) and \(\bigcap \) Magic Ring of Strength \(\bigcap \) those were stored securely.

Magic Bracelet of Defense reduces the damage received by the wearer.

Magic Ring of Strength has magic power that increases the strength of the wearer.

Both have considerable value, they're magic items that strengthen the wearer greatly. It was written in the documents that I saw in the library, both were designated as national treasures. It will be an uproar at this time if they noticed that all of them had been stolen.

In addition, I stole some necessary tools to take my revenge.

It would be the best to use one of those on Luser, but let's think about it later.

I should be able to regain some war potential by equipping these magic items, although this is still way lower than my former power.

That's why I made my way in during the rite and changed the use of the summons formation to metastasize. In process I rearranged it to disintegrate if somebody else touched it.

I rewrite it using the magical power that was supplied by the Magic Stone.

The treasure room has been plundered, and the summons formation used to come to the kingdom was broken.

It's regrettable that I can't watch what happens to Luser right now.

```
「 Now... 」 ( Iori)
```

Right now, I need to check my current location.... No doubt, there's no mistake in my destination.

☐ The structure has not changed that much since the last time I came here☐ (Iori)

The labyrinth which was on the edge of the kingdom known as <code>[Labyrinth of Hades]</code> . TL sorry with the bad naming because it can be interpret as <code>[Labyrinth of Hell]</code> or <code>[Laybyrinth of Basement]</code> .

The foothold of the Maou forces, where a great amount of demons gather.

In the past, I have overcame the labyrinth along with my companions. During the last three decades, the Maou seems to have remade it.

Why did I come to such dangerous place?

It is — to regain the power of the Hero.

[The Proof of Hero] on my right arm hardly functions right now. For some reason the means to use my magical power seems to have been blocked.

If I want to make "it" function properly, I have no choice but to take magical power in large quantities and make the "proof" start by force.

I intended to do something using a <code>[Magic Stone]</code>, but is still not enough to do so. It seems that a much greater quantity of magical power is necessary, more than I originally thought.

Therefore I had my eyes on this labyrinth.

There is a mass of magical power known as
Labyrinth Core installed in the most inner part of the labyrinth. And this labyrinth is filled with a gas called
Demonic Miasma that helps to spawn the demons.

「Once I obtain the 『Labyrinth Core 』, I will regain my former power 」(Iori)

For that purpose I came over to this <code>[Labyrinth of Hades]</code> .

```
\lceil --- \rfloor ( lori)
```

I remember the dream that I had just a while ago. I wanted to make a

peaceful world where all races coexist at the end of the war.

I remember the face my companions laughing at that dream.

- You just came from another world, trying to save this world? Don't you think you're being absurd?
 - It was only you who fought with such an aim, only YOU.
 - It was something that could only be seen in dream when you sleep, no?

```
「 I'll make them regret 」 ( Iori)
```

To Luser, Dionis, Lucifina and the demi-humans that betrayed me.

```
Therefore, I need the power for it ☐ (Iori)
```

A power to massacre those demi-humans.

A power to kill Luser.

A power to kill both Lucifina and Dionis that currently belong in the Maou forces.

As for the method to return to my original world, I should just think about that after I attain my revenge.

```
「For that reason I must attain the 『 Labyrinth Core 』 」 (Iori)
```

It's necessary to go to the most inner part to obtain the 「Labyrinth Core 」. There will be many demons along the journey, and the Mazoku that protects the 「Labyrinth Core 」 will wait guarding the Core.

I just need to breakthrough it quickly and complete my objectives.

```
    □ I should get going □ (Iori)
```

After verifying my future (later) objectives, I stepped into the labyrinth.

Episode 6: A Fall and An Encounter

There are five labyrinths that exist, known as \subseteq The Five Labyrinth Commander \subseteq

A base created by the Maou for his forces.

And it's being protected by a powerful mazoku known as 「Mashou」, even with the military power of one whole country it is still difficult to conquer it. TL 麼将 or 「Mashou」 can be translate as Demon Lord in English. maybe I will stick with Demon Lord afterwards.

There's one of the five commanders that inhabits in this \[\text{Labyrinth of Hades} \] . There's a lot of Mazoku that have power mainly from the earth element spawning here. The demon or Mazoku which called \[\text{Earth Demon Lord} \] , was protecting the labyrinth core. TL \[\text{Domashou} \] sound better than \[\text{Earth Demon Lord} \] ,right?

In the past, there should be fifteen level altogether. The ground has a fragile characteristic and is followed by the vertical hole toward to the bottom. One must pay attention during a battle, because the floor will collapse when a strong impact is given.

For the time being I wasn't sure if there are fifteen floors. Yet, I will still descend till I reach the bottom level. By using the magic stone, I've invoke the physical reinforcement magic. Simultaneously invoking the concealment magic to hide my presence.

[GURUAAA!! |

But, there's a demon aware of me because among them there are the ones with sharp instincts.

「Maddoga」 is an ogre created from the mud, "DOKADOKA" its approaching towards my directions.

```
「Fuu」 (Iori)
```

GAGYAAA!?

I dodge the arm that looks like a log, then I chop its head off with the treasure sword making it drop to the ground. As expected of this sharpness, the mud ogre was crumbling to the ground just from one slash.

☐ By this, I probably can defeat it just by using physical reinforcement and sword arts ☐ (Iori)

Generally I already understand the movement patterns of the demons that I fought once. I was able to advance considerably and it was thanks to Magic Ring of Strength and magic stones that enables me to fight efficiently. I walk in the labyrinth while checking my current ability.

Even with the help of the magic stones, I still cannot use high power magic freely. In any case its fine for lower class demon and for the standard high rank demon I can use it just for distraction. For the present, I decide to fight using the sword as my main and magic for support.

As for those demons which aren't aware of my presence, I just ignored them. And for those demons that noticed, I defeated them immediately.

Because of the internal structure and the frame that has changed, it was hard to find the staircase that leads to the lower level. I've been able to advance considerably because there haven't been any big battles that occurred.

At the moment I thought so. When I descend to the eighth floor, I've encountered an unexpected number of demons. Its a monster house, a numbers which I don't want to mess with. The area surrounding the staircase was hardened. The mud ogre, skeleton and even the earth lizard, a countless number of demons going to attacks me simultaneously.

I dodge and cut off the attack. None of them were strong enough. Even the present me can handle it sufficiently. Only their number is what makes them

really troublesome.

```
「·····that's really annoying 」(Iori)
```

As I fight them using one hand, my other one is reaching for the porch.

Suddenly, the demon thats right in front of me was blown off and the wall collapsed as they crash onto it.

```
[Aaah....,its been a while since I meet a human] (Unknown)
```

What has appeared was an especially really big mud ogre. While swing its plump body and put off a vulgar smile its approaching me.

[Hihihi. Although, a young woman was a lot better, a man is fine too. I'm gonna mess you up]

```
「A rare species?」 (Iori)
```

Mostly the demons can't speak because they had low intelligence. But the rare one has a high intelligence that enables them to speak. Such a rare species is stronger than the ordinary demon.

```
All of you small fries are getting in my way!
```

With a laugh, the mud ogre flings a fist onto its surrounding demons. Eventhough they were the same kind of mud ogre, they were killed like minced beef.

```
「Oi. Aren't those fellows, your friends?」 (Iori)
```

Huh? With this worthless trash, I can do whatever I want with them

```
「Is that so」 (lori)
```

Demons were such beings originally. Except a part, murdering its own kin only to satisfy its own desire that does not change even if they have intelligence.

```
Oh, that's it.
```

So its no difference between a humans and Mazoku.

Now, I understand.

```
「It's a bit unpleasant」(Iori)
```

The Maddoga starts to attack me. If its an ordinary human being, just with a single blow they will become a lump of meat instantly. I parried those strikes

using the treasure sword.

I used the "Soft sword" technique during the fight. I acquire it during my heroic past. It was a sword technique that's using the soft control to gently suppress the opponent.

[Wha!?]

Maddonga who had absolute confidence in his own physical strength was in surprise. The moment he hardened by surprise. Maddonga torso was being mowed down by the treasure sword.

[Hi, Giaaaa!] (Maddonga)

Then Maddonga collapsed into the ground while raising his screams of death. He died with his upper and the lower body separated.

『Giii!?』

Because the rare species was killed, the nearby demons are running in fear. I use that opportunity to leave the place.

Then after several hours.

I descend the stairs and reach the eleventh floor.

However, the number of demons that are chasing me from my rear keep increasing. Just like a night the hundreds demons are following from behind in succession.

By considering the mobility first I dressed lightly but it's made from excellent materials, because I was still seriously considering the defense, I used the armor that doesn't catch any attentions.

■SHAAAA (Unknown demon)

An enormous demon revealed itself as it's blocking my way. It is a demon which its body has a lower part of the spider and the upper part of the golem and also known as the Tsuchigumo/Earth spider. It's a demon that has the highest threat level, in this \[\text{Labyrinth of Hades} \]

[Giiii!!] (Tsuchigumo)

A white ball was spat out from its inside, the moment the Tsuchigumo opened its mouth. The Tsuchigumo can produce a cobweb with a strong adhesive power. It landed on the ground continuously, then jumped up and down and was blocking up the passage.

```
「·····looks like I got no choice, huh」(Iori)
```

I take out multiples of magic stones at the same time from the porch. While evading the attack of the Tsuchigumo, I drove the magic in the magic stone which I grasped into the state of running out of control.

```
「─" Magic Break"」(Iori)
```

I threw the magic stone which running out of control to the demons that approached from my rear. The magic stone emits dazzling light and a roaring sound was made then immediately after that it exploded.

The demon swallowed up by the explosion was blown off. But I cannot defeat all the demons that keep appearing with only this. The other demons keep rush towards me as they step on their dead comrade corpses.

GURUOOO!?

As "ZUDON" sound resonate, the ground gained its momentum and crumbled down. The demons that are involved in the collapse are falling to the bottom one after another.

Yo,tto!! (Iori) In order to escape from the Tsuchigumo which is approaching from my rear, I jumped into the hole vigorously.

In addition to improve my physical ability I used the magic stone, then I jumped and mounted onto the top of a demon and the rock.

【Cyclone】 (Iori) As I get closer to the next level ground surface, I've create a 【Cyclone】 by using the magic stone. Somehow I landed into the ground with the reduced drop impact.

```
「Looks like I acted a bit reckless......」(Iori)
```

The wreckage of the upper level fell onto the demons during the fall. Among those is the Tsuchigumo that was chasing me from before.

By this, I was able to reset my situation of being chased by a large quantity of

demons. It was too dynamic, but the shortcut was a success.

This is the twelfth floor. The number of floors maybe changed, but if it still the same with the past there should be three floors remaining. Nearing the labyrinth core, the Earth Demon Lord will be defending it.

If its the demon of this labyrinth, I can do something if I'm surrounded. It'll be possible to catch Earth Demon Lord off guard and snatch the labyrinth core away. If I use a large quantity of magic stones and magical power grant items.

[Hmm.....that's] (Iori) Near the vicinity of the dead Tsuchigumo, a white globe like the softball rolled. That reminds me, Tsuchigumo [Cocoon ball] contains very high viscosity liquid and I should take it. The handling is difficult, but it may be useful for something, so I put it inside the pouch.

[Yosh.....] (Iori) After verifying the quantity of the remaining magic stones, I've started walking facing toward the next floor. As I advanced, the miasma which drifts became denser. The miasma in the air shines brilliantly, it creates a certain kind fantasy-like scenes. But I cannot afford to admire it.

$$\lceil --\cdots \rfloor$$
 (Iori)

Miasma is a gas that helps to spawn the demons, it was something functioning similar to oxygen. In the lower levels where the miasma is getting more dense, a stronger demon is more active. Down the stairs, I found that there's lot of demons—as being said I stay alert more than before and advance ahead carefully.

I think that it was good to learn other skills without depending only on the power of the Hero at such moments. Fencing and methods about how to walks in labyrinths are very useful here.

..... I felt really depressed when I remember the guy who taught me.

I let the Tsuchigumo pass by me while they were making the floor lightly tremble, then I advanced toward where the miasma is denser.

Finally I reach the thirteenth floor after a quite while.

```
「Right after this, huh」 (Iori)
```

In the lower layer of the labyrinth, other than the labyrinth core, the metastasis formation which leads to outside is established. It's a one-way to go outside, but when using this, it would be possible to escape from the labyrinth.

At first I confirm the labyrinth core and the location of the metastasis formation. After that, while passing by the Earth Demon Lord, I seize the labyrinth core. Immediately I move towards the metastasis formation and leave the labyrinth.

And, this should be the best strategy.

When I came here before, the huge golem that named itself as Earth Demon Lord was the one that was protecting the labyrinth core. It was considerably strong but it movement were sluggish and it intelligence was just meager.

Last time I fought against the Earth Demon Lord directly from the front, but this time when I manage to obtain the labyrinth core, I just need run away immediately.

Because there are many uncertain elements, I want to use the labyrinth core after I escape if possible, In the worst case it's unavoidable that I may use it sooner to regain my former power.

I simulate the situations and work out a strategy of multiple patterns. I need to think a few steps ahead.

$$\lceil ---- \rfloor$$
 (lori)

GURARI, and the ground shook. But that was not the case. The vibration goes to the whole labyrinth.

「This─」 (Iori) SUU, the air which has drifted in the labyrinth has drastically changed. The painful roar of demons echoes from all around. I have experienced this phenomenon for five times.

The labyrinth core has been taken (Iori)

With such timing. Someone is already ahead of me.

From the lower layer, an explosion sounds in succession. Perhaps somebody fights against Earth Demon Lord. Both of them are fighting and the explosion is gradually approaching towards me.

```
「What I'm gonna do......」(Iori)
```

In order to recover my power, the labyrinth core is something that was indispensable to me. I don't know who it is, but I cannot let you take it.

However, it will become troublesome if I fight against the Earth Demon Lord.

```
\lceil ---- \rfloor (lori)
```

ZOKURI, as chills run through my spine like it will tear out from my back. That moment, at the spot where I stood till suddenly its being pierced by a huge rock.

[Wha!?] (Iori) At the same time, the crack keeps spreading around the spike. It is quickly spreading, just after that the ground collapsed.

```
「Damn it!」 (Iori)
```

Then I use a similar magic, the one that I cast before. I reduce the shock of the fall and land to the lower stratum.

In front of my eye, the mountain of rock which is big to the extent of making me look up, is towered.

A voice sounding from the abyss echoes in the labyrinth.

Soon after having heard it, I realized it. The thing that was in front of me was not just a mountain of rock.

```
「······A Cave Dragon」 (Iori)
```

Two enormous eyeballs with a size about of a human head and a nose that gouged out.

ZURARI. It's a gigantic mouth with a pile of sharp fangs that just look like a row of stakes. The dragon that has his whole body covered by rocks was considerably big, that made me mistake it for a mountain of rock.

The overpowering pressure cannot be compared with the Golem which was the former Earth Demon Lord that I've fought once. It is indeed a troublesome fellow if I fight it directly from the front.

It's impossible for me to escape ahead, as it stand blocking my pathway. Fortunately, some passages are opened, when I turn my sight at my rear. It was the moment when I thought I want to flee for now.

```
[Hey, human over there, assist me!]
```

A girl's voice sounded from the rear side of the dragon. There is a wall in the direction where I heard the voice. The owner of the voice seems to be in a state of being cornered behind the wall somehow.

```
Tsk, such a cunning one!
```

Suddenly, the body of the dragon erupted intensely, the dragon is irritated and swaying it's body simultaneously. The girl on the other side is attacking it using magic. Probably, it was her who stole the labyrinth core.

```
「To die while trying to obtain the labyrinth core would be a problem.....」 (Iori)
```

I decided immediately and take out a magic stone.

```
「Look here, DRAGON!!」 (Iori)
『!?』
```

I use the magic stone that I gripped to invoke my magic. The one that I use is the Thunder Magic. Thunder is developed into a cobweb form as if covering the face of the dragon.

```
[GU.....!]
```

The bright golden thunder that shines inflicted temporary blindness, but there's no great power inflicted by it. Covered in cobwebs, for an instant the Dragon movements have slowed.

```
[Complete!]
```

Instantly, the owner of the voice passed through the opening of the dragon and the wall at high speed, ran to this side. As we pass by each other she grabs my hand forcibly.

```
[Follow me!]
```

「He,hey!」 (Iori) The girl just ignored me and started running. I follow the

girl and ran alongside her, I was unable to resist her strength as I cannot imagine it came from such a delicate body.

```
[I won't let escape, YOU TRAITOR!!]
```

Roaring of the dragon echoes from my rear. It's huge body swaying, even an Tsuchigumo can be smashed by just swung those huge arm.

```
「Gu─」 (Iori)
```

It seems like running away from blast shock, as the ground broke in pieces and was scattered around.

As the crack spreads, at that moment my foothold started to collapse.

[nu.....]

[Ugh......] (Iori) Because there's a girl holding my hand, my reaction slowed down for a moment. When I felt like I was floating, then I realized that I was falling with my head first.

「DAMN!」 (Iori) The ground approaches rapidly and when I was about to collide with my head first, right before that.

[Yotsu |

My body was wrapped with something soft. Then I just watched the girl who dropped together with me, catching me. While in that state, the person that was embracing me landed onto the ground easily.

Without magic, is this fellow really a human being.....?

Fumu. To think that our positions are reversed like this

As I was astonished by the words of the girl, I looked up on the watch for our chaser. I cannot confirm the figure of the dragon from the hole in which we fell.

「That huge thing, won't chase us till here」

The girl muttered as she looking upward while still embracing me. And do you have any basis for that statement?

There are also no signs the dragon is chasing us and there's no demon nearby either. For the time being, danger seems to have passed.

Nevertheless you got such slender body. Do you eat properly?

And while the girl lifting up my body "HYOI", she said such thing to me.

She is an extremely carefree woman.

First of all, how long are you going to hold me.

```
「·····Put me down」(Iori)
```

「Oh, that's right」

She nodded as she finally remembered, the girl puts me down to the ground.

```
「·····..Thanks, for saving me」(Iori)
```

No need to thank me. It was me that was helped by you. Because you fell at the right time it enabled me to break away. Allow me to express my thanks to you.

While folding her arms and looking at me from above she spoke with such an exaggerated manner towards me

Who on earth is this arrogant fellow, While questioning it in my heart, for the first time I was able to see the figure of the girl well.

And I was frozen hard.

Y-you...... (Iori) The silver hair which rustle to her waist and golden eyes which let you feel some dignity from it. Moreover, her bare skin that can be seen from the torn clothes, something like black crest was floating around her. Her figure is near that of a human being, but the magical power that vibes from her was one of those Mazoku.

I was able to guess from that physical ability of her, as expected this girl isn't a human being.

```
[Hmm?]
```

Before me, the girl who looks puzzled tilting her head, was someone that I knew.

—Elfisuzaku Giraldo.

She was there, the Mazoku that I have fought thirty years ago.

Episode 7: United Front, A Mutual Gain Relationship

Elfisuzaku Giraldo.

I don't know what her standpoint among the Maou forces is, but she is a Mazoku that has power exceeding the King Four Devas.

As an opponent that I fought against before being betrayed by my companions, It still remains in my memory.

Her figures hasn't changed, maybe its caused by the slow aging of the Mazoku.

I never thought, that she survived from those events.

```
「 ─ Fumu 」 ( Elfisuzaku)
```

Elfisuzaku was looking at me with a serious expression on her face.

It was the same when I fought her, there was a similar overpowering impression that can make an opponent tremble.

I who raised my precaution to those golden eyes of her that seemed like that she can see through me.

As for Elfisuzaku which opened her mouth, I take a stance unintentionally.

Impossible, did she knew who I was?

Then Elfisuzaku said with a serious expression.

☐ Having stared that much at me, have you fallen in love with me on the first sight? (Elfisuzaku)

```
「·····WHAT? 」 (Iori)
```

For such unexpected words, I've countered it unintentionally.

What did she just said?

 \lceil It's because from the old days ,there were a lot of men fascinated by my figure. So are you fascinated by it too, right? \rfloor (Elfisuzaku)

```
「 NO WAY 」 ( Iori)
```

Unintentionally, I answered immediately.

Just what did this fellow said. I felt disappointed instinctively as her real character was not like I thought.

```
「·····Mu, is that so 」 (Elfisuzaku)
```

Whats with the "such a boring guy" face.

I became really uneasy whether it was the same Mazoku that I fought thirty years ago.

```
「·····Who you really are? 」 ( Iori)
```

I ended the strange air and brought up the subject.

I already knew who she really is. But I don't understand why did she fought against Earth Demon Lord.

Elfisuzaku is a Mazoku and belongs to the Maou forces. It is strange for her to fight against Earth Demon Lord which belongs to the same Maou forces.

☐ Probably I think that you have already notice, that's I'm a Mazoku. My name is Elfisuzaku Giraldo ☐ (Elfisuzaku)

The name I heard is no different from the one that I heard back then. But her character was different from the one that I imagined. Probably this was her true nature after all.

「······If you were Mazoku, why are you being chased by the Earth Demon Lord? 」 (lori)

Being exiled and hostile by the Maou forces, huh.

Being targeted by the Earth Demon Lord itself, it appears that she doesn't lie, right?

Moreover, during the escape, having her being called **\[\]** Traitor **\]** by that Dragon proves it.

But I do not intend to just accept it.

The result is me being chased to the dead end and thanks to you who just fell there, I was able to run away somehow
 ☐ (Elfisuzaku)

If it was the former Elfisuzaku for such a dragon being her opponent she should be able to defeat it easily, apparently she seems to be weakened.

As for the foothold to collapse, is it because the aftermath of their battle?

I did not know what kind of circumstances there were, but it becomes troublesome.

Elfisuzaku asked me without showing any hostility. For now, I don't have any intend to fight against her. While standing to be able to fight immediately, I decided to answer her question for the time being.

 \lceil ······It's Iori. I came here because I've some bussines in this labyrinth \rfloor (Iori)

Yeah, something like that
 ∫ (lori)

Elfisuzaku shows that she understands by noding with "I see, I see".

As for the labyrinth is stopping its movement, is it your doing?
 ☐ (Iori)

Ahh. I was running away from that dragon after I took it ☐ (Elfisuzaku)

Elfisuzaku took a sphere with the size which fits into a palm out from her bosom. It slightly emits light strangely of the rainbow color. Its no mistake, that is a Labyrinth Core.

Elfisuzaku) Did she noticed my gaze towards the labyrinth core, Elfisuzaku asked while she showed the sphere to me. I must do something to obtain that labyrinth core from this Mazoku one way or another. Do I need to answer it honestly or not? Then, I'll give it to you (Elfisuzaku) Elfisuzaku said so in a light tone to me who was worrying. 「·····is it fine? 」 (Iori) Yeah. Its okay for you to have it, because it was an unnecessary thing for me. I really appreciate it if you would take it \(\) (Elfisuzaku) Is that true. I felt relief as Elfisuzaku handed the labyrinth core to me. Receiving the labyrinth core, I felt a wave motion from the enormous magical power trasmitted by it. 「······I understand. Thank you 」 (Iori) For the time being, I put away the labyrinth core into my porch. To the extent where I felt surprised because I already achived my objective. Thus, as you said Iori. Do you need to do something else in this labyrinth? Well, my pupose was only the labyrinth core, afterwards I just need to escape from here | (Iori) Actually there's another one, but let's just put it down for now. If I can regain power using the labyrinth core, generally things can be done now. If it can happen, the revenge will also proceed easily. That's convenient. Then, lori cooperate with me ☐ (Elfisuzaku) 「····· cooperate? 」 (Iori)

By a sudden proposition, I've countered her unconsciously. 「You may call it a joint struggle 」 (Elfisuzaku) According to her story, it seems the metastasis formation which leads to outside was on the 14th floor. Right now both of us were on the lowest level, the 15th floor. After Elfisuzaku took this labyrinth core on the 15th floor, we went to the 14th floor to metastasize. As for fighting with that dragon at the 14th floor, it seems necessary just in order to escape. Probably that dragon will be waiting for me in front of metastasis formation | (Elfisuzaku) \[\cdots \cdots \text{As for not chasing till here, the reason is because it thought that you Judging from being able to speak, the intelligence of that dragon is high. Even if its waiting to ambush, it wouldn't be strange. I think about a future action while examining the words of Elfisuzaku closely. That dragon seemed to aim at Elfisuzaku. I only got caught in it. Then, I should able to escape from it unlike Elfisuzaku. If we just need to go out, that means we can also climb up to an upper floor and escape using the entrance of the labyrinth \(\) (| Iori) It is not realistic, that dragon, by using magic it can travel the ground freely. It will catch up with us even if we run away to the upper floors before escaping | (Elfisuzaku) With that, Elfisuzaku continued her words. | Judging from its behavior, that rude fellow has a considerably persistent character. Not to mention me, you who were present at that place will not able to escape either. Even if we act seperately, After killing one of us it will definitely chase the other one as well | (Elfisuzaku)

From her words it seems like she saw through my thought. However, I did not tell her a lie. If its the cave dragon which has such a gigantic figure certainly, just escaping by foot, there is a possibility it will chase me and cache me up as I become tired.

☐ Because you are able to go to the lower stratum of the labyrinth alone, you're able to go against it, right? If we cooperate, the possibility that you can escape becomes higher ☐ (Elfisuzaku)

Saying so Elfisuzaku held out her hand. Her eye saying that she wants to form an alliance with me.

 \lceil ······ As for me, that strong attack is not usable so I can't land any damage to that dragon \rfloor (Iori)

I already completely grasped my own ability before I came here.

The current me doesn't reach my golden day. The peculiar magic which could be used formerly. I'm only able to exert a few percents from its former performance even by using the magic stones and the magical items.

No problem. My magic can inflict damage to that dragon. Iori only needs to buy some time for me ☐ (Elfisuzaku)

Elfisuzaku says everything will be alright while shaking her head.

Definitely not a bad idea. However, it was too convenient.

「·····You just met me, to propose cooperation to me, a human, huh 」 (Iori)

For her, I was a stranger that she just meet. Furthermore, Mazoku and humans are hostile at each other. But no precaution is being shown by her. No matter how you look at it, it was somthing that is too doubtful.

What are you scheming for?

If she becomes an obstacle for my escape, should I just dispose of her right here?

I who was in thought was staring right infront of me intensely, as Elfisuzaku was saying this.

「You, because you helped me. Neither being a human nor a Mazoku matters, right?」 (Elfisuzaku)

```
\lceil ---- \rfloor ( Iori)
```

With a expression which seems to want to say that it was natural.

「 Right? 」 (Elfisuzaku)

Neither being a human nor a Mazoku matters?

What is this fellow talking about. It was incomprehensible.

 \lceil In addition, I'm confident with my eyes. You are a human who is worth enough for me to cooperate with \rfloor (Elfisuzaku)

As usual, the self-important Elfisuzaku says this to me. You gain nothing, even if you try to flatter me. With a sincere expression, she said so.

At least, it was visible.

```
\lceil ---- \rfloor (Iori)
```

Will I accept her propose, or refuses it?

Thinking for a while, and then concluded.

「······I understand. Let's cooperate until we leave this labyrinth 」 (lori)

「 Umu, it is a wise decision 」 (Elfisuzaku)

Elfisuzaku happily smiled broadly and nodded in an arrogant manner.

As if I can blindly trust her. On the other hand, the words she says now make me even more unable to trust her.

My former companion, Lucifina also said such similar things to me. Both Mazoku and humans are the same. With that mouth of hers, she said \lceil Do you believe a such thing? \rfloor to me while laughing at me.

Then it will be fine if I plot something. There is a high probability she might betray me. If so, I should just betray her first.

I will not be deceived anymore. I will not repeat my mistake for a second time. In order to get out alive from here, I'll use anything with all my might.



☐ Elfisuzaku. Can you really use magic powerful enough to defeat that dragon? ☐ (Iori)

After plotting how to escape from here, we walked towards the metastasis

formation on the upper floor. 「Fun~, Who do you think I am?」 (Elfisuzaku) □ Because I don't know, that's why I'm asking you □ (Iori) 「 Mu.....」 (Elfisuzaku) Well, I know your capability very well. Even if she doesn't seem to be King Four Devas, after all this fellow was belonging to the Maou forces. Be at ease. Although the current me cannot utilize my full potential, I have sufficient magical power to slaughters that dragon | (Elfisuzaku) Cannot utilize her full potential, huh. Well, if she had her full potential from that time, then defeating that dragon will be easy. Thus by pairing with me now. By doing that you will be able to escape from this labyrinth. Certainly, This will be an easy ride \(\) (Elfisuzaku) 「·····Yeah. I put my expections on it 」 (Iori) That's just a lip service, did she expect me to blindly trust her? The matter that she will betray me, of course I take that into consideration as well. That dragon seemed to target Elfisuzaku and I'll use that advantage properly. Even if there's a mutual cooperation relationship, it's no reason that we will become companions as well. It's just for a mutual gain only. As for the Mazoku who is in human enemy, no matter how hard she shows friendly behavior towards me, I can't come to trust her.Even the companions who I traveled with for many years were able to betray me easily. This fellow, I'll always be prepared in case this fellow changes her mind. So that I will not be taken by surprise. On the contrary, if she shows doubtful behavior I'll just chop off her head with one strike. What's wrong? It feels like you are desperately watching my every action 「 No.....its nothing 」 (Iori)

I try to act fool, but it seems like her intuition is sharp. Even if she seems to be weakened,I cannot be careless around her.

```
    Fumu.....As I expected you really have fallen in love at first sight with me
    J (Elfisuzaku)
    No, I didn't J (Iori)
    Mu..... is that so? J (Elfisuzaku)
```

Carelessness, it is not acceptable.

While doing such exchanges, we ascended the stairs. Reaching the 14th floor, then we walked towards the metastasis formation.

```
「It's close. Brace yourself」 (Elfisuzaku) 「······Yeah 」 (Iori)
```

There is no demon figure around, its influenced by the miasma which became thin. The weak demon perishes and strong ones will be looking for miasma and be aiming for the outside of the labyrinth. I'm thankful, because the only opponet left is the Earth Demon Lord.

I am guided by her, at the end of our advance was a circular large room. Similar with the small room from before, the wall is made to be able to move. In the depths of the room, the pathway is different from the others and is made of sturdy material.

Probably there will be the metastasis formation at the end of this pathway.

We stepped inside into the room. There is no sign of anything inside. However, I know it.

When I think whether a voice echoed in the room, the enormous arm from the center of the room that is covered in rock extended. With "ZUBUZUBU", as if made from water the ground surface makes ripples, the Earth Demon Lord appears. The huge dragon which is easily overshadowing the Tsuchigumo was soaring right in front of me. T/N Tsuchigumo/Earth Spider

 ${{\mathbb I}}$ It seemes that you made up your mind to be killed by me, no? ${{\mathbb J}}$

I grasp the magic stone and draw the treasure sword. The Earth Demon Lord whole body was covered by a hard rock, Even if I use "Demon Break" probably no damage will be given.

「Fool. You bastard are the one that will be defeated by us 」(Elfisuzaku)

Elfisuzaku provokes the Earth Demon Lord with her fearless smile. It seems to be unpleasant and snort his nose. The Earth Demon Lord turns his gaze towards me.

Hey, you dwarf human. I'll make you pay for obstructing me earlier, too

As Elfisuzaku said, he seems to be aiming for me as well. That has been predicted as well.

☐ Bring it on! Earth Demon Lord. Elfisuzaku stand back. I can defeat this fellow just by myself ☐ (Iori)

```
『 ······WHAT DID YOU SAY ? 』
```

I've heard about the personality of this dragon from Elfisuzaku beforehand. From its behavior from a while ago, I found out that he was really confident in his own power.

Because of the provocation.

「You still don't get it? For an idiot who allowed the labyrinth core to be stolen, I told you that I'm enough to defeat you 」 (Iori)

This provocation seems to have succeeded. The Earth Demon Lord shakes his big body in anger.

```
☐ Hey Iori.Everything as according to the plan ☐ (Elfisuzaku)☐ ······Yeah ☐ (Iori)
```

As being asked, Elfisuzaku withdraws to the rear. I do not know if it works according to strategy, let's just work according to the prior strategy for the time being. In other words, I must fight alone against the Earth Demon Lord.

```
『 Fine......』
```

The Earth Demon Lord scowl and glares towards me

My name is Bargildo not "Earth Demon Lord"! Human I will crush you right NOW!!

The roar of the Earth Demon Lord echoes.

Ahh, that's right.

Now that I already obtained the labyrinth core, then I got no business here anymore. So disappear immediately, Earth Demon Lord.

Thus, the battle with the Earth Demon Lord began.

Episode 8: Will Overturn that for sure

A cave dragon.

That's the race of this The Earth Demon Lord.

A dragons that came from dragon species which an active subordinates of the Maou and its inhabited the mines that produce lots of ore.

Its skin was fully covered by hard rock and its impossible even to scratch it just by using some average magic.

I use magic from the earth attribute and create the rock bullets to shots them into its mouth.

Just by moving around the dragon creates heavy damage to its surrounding area, Its a really troublesome demon.

[Just wait,I'll surely crash the both of you RIGHT HERE!]

The Earth Demon Lord smashed the ground with his huge arm.

When the room vibrated due to the impact, simultaneously magical power flows into the ground.

Right after that, similar to a mouth being closed, all the passages that led to other rooms have been blocked.

Now both of you insects cannot run around anymore.

Elfisuzaku has already evacuated to the rear of the room.

Thus I must fight against this dragon alone for a while.

「Tsk」(Iori)

As the Earth Demon Lord begins to move I started running away.

While running, I raise my physical ability using the magic stone to the limit

Fortunately, this room is wide and there are many places for me to escape.

[Magic Break] (Iori)

I take distance and throw a number of magic stones towards the Earth Demon Lord. Instantly, the Earth Demon Lord and the magic stones clashed with each other the great explosions is produced.

『A crafty one, huh』
「There's no effect!?」 (Iori)

Although it's done with the maximum attack power. Yet, it still can't break through the armor of the Earth Demon Lord.

That was a useless effort. Even if I use every kind of magic on this fellow, will he receive any damage from it?

[Did you flinch, human?]

The Earth Demon Lord laughs, He seems to be trying to mock me. According to our plan it should be here.

As for my path of retreat being cut off. Moreover, according to the assumption that his attack will not pass through here.

Even though, the cave dragon is a powerful demon and it should have some weak point.

The internal part of its body which isn't covered up by rocks, and the tail where the only armoring is thinner, even the attack of the current me

should be able to get through it.

Of course it wouldn't be possible for me to jump inside its body because of that I'll be aiming for its tail.

A cave dragon is using its two legs to move on the ground and what helps him to keep his balance is it tail.

By cutting it off, its balance will collapses and it will create a big opening.

On the tail joint the armor of rock is thinner than other parts and if I use the treasure sword, it will be possible to cut it off.

```
「Don't tell me that, this is all you got, Earth Demon Lord」(Iori) 
【Hah? 』
```

There's a lot of other race of the Mazoku that despising the demons that have superior power then itself.

This Earth Demon Lord is a typical example.

By using it, I will create an opening from it.

```
「Tsk!」(Iori)
```

Thus I turn towards the Earth Demon Lord and start running with all my might.

If I want to cut the tail, then I have to reach it first.

[Human figures is just an eyesore, hah]

The shell of rocks was launched in succession after the Earth Demon Lord opened its mouth.

The bullets are falling like a rain.

```
「Tsk!」(Iori)
```

With the physical ability that I raised to the limit, I evade the shell by run in zig zag as it being bombed throughout the ground. Though my back is hit by the aftermath, I clench my teeth and advance forward.

I confirm that the Earth Demon Lord is going to raise its arm, to counter that I exercise magic with an additional magic stone

Using Thunder Magic I aim at the eyes of the Earth Demon Lord.

The Earth Demon Lord takes a direct hits from the Thunder Magic, even if the power are low, its range are wide.

```
[GUH, that's twice! ]
```

Though the thunder easily vanishes by just one swing of its arm, an opening is born in that instant.

I've jumped then I rolled over to passed through the Earth Demon Lord foot.

Everything is going smooth to this point.

Next, I just need to chop off its tail \(\)

```
[FOOLS!]
[Tsk!] (Iori)
```

The tail of the Earth Demon Lord fell from my above my head.

Though I fly aside and jump back, the ground crumbling and the debris flying from being struck by the tail are twice the size of a human torso.

```
「Kuh」(Iori)
```

The debris is repelled with the sword, but my balance is destroyed and I fall into the ground.

Again, the tail of the Earth Demon Lord was coming into my direction.

[You're aiming for my tail, huh? Then you should aim it properly first!!]

The Earth Demon Lord sneers at me whose evades the tail as I leap using the physical reinforcement and barely evading by a hair breath.

Right after that, I started to move to the right position, In order to attack him.

『YOU'RE SLOW!』

Soon after striking the first blow, The Earth Demon Lord flung its tail in succession.

My breath was getting rough after I was sent flying into the ground. Moreover, I got further damage from the impact itself.

[Human, you're just a nobody. "Don't talk the talk if you can't walk the walk." After all, this was the extent for what a human capable of [

Then a harsh loud laughter echoes.

As Earth Demon Lord thinks that he already won. Yeah, of course this is according to the plan too.

While sneering, the Earth Demon Lord tried to raise its tail with all his strength on it. At that time, he finally notices something unusual.

[What, is THIS!?]

The tail of the Earth Demon Lord was stuck to the ground firmly and around his tail, a white liquid was spreading.

[Kuh... this is the Tsuchigumo......]

Adhering to the tail of the Earth Demon Lord was the liquid that belonged in the Tsuchigumo cocoon ball.

At the same time when I evaded it, I was observing his tail fall spots, all for sake of laying the cocoon ball.

Speaking of the strong adhesive strength, those cocoon balls will probably last for several seconds.

However, that is just enough.

「Oh, Wasn't it you who said "You should aim it properly first". It seems that you made yourself eat your own words」(Iori)

『YOU BASTARD』

The Earth Demon Lord tries to peel his tail from the ground, but it's already late.

It was a checkmate, Thus I casted the physical enhancement on myself as I swung aiming for the root of his tail.

This Treasure Sword contains magical power that can boost its sharpness.

Even the tail of a dragon will be chopped off if its being cut through from its thin armored parts.

「HaaAAAH!」(Iori)

Then in a flash, As I aimed particularly at the section of the tail with less armor. Thus just by one slash from the Treasure Sword, the tail of the Earth Demon Lord was amputated from its root.

GuoOOOO!! J

Thus it let out a roar that echoes inside the room, subsequently the Earth Demon Lord which lost it support falls down to the ground vigorously.

In order not to be involved with the place where its huge body falls to the ground, I take distance from it. Right after that his roar echoes.

```
『HOW DARE YOU!!』
「.....!」(Iori)
```

With a cry of rage, the Earth Demon Lord who lost its balance is lifting his body forcibly.

The cave dragon which I fought once cannot make any movement after losing its tail.

Although I say that, as expected for the Earth Demon Lord he is able to move in such conditions.

Just before it was going to smash me using its huge body, Right at the moment-

「Well done, Iori」(Elfisuzaku)

The voice of Elfisuzaku echoes inside the room.



The plot of the fight had been already decided beforehand. My role in this fight is to buy us some time. As for the magic that will be cast by Elfisuzaku, that is our main objective.

Just leave the rest to me! (Elfisuzaku)

Then I noticed that Elfisuzaku which waited in the rear is now standing right besides me.

[Guu, ELFISUZAAAKU!!]

By its floundering force the Earth Demon Lord stand on his four legs.

If it will strike us with his huge body that looks like a hill, just with that alone we will become just a lump of flesh.

Then try to handle this, Earth Demon Lord J(Elfisuzaku)

With that majestic appearance approaching us, Elfisuzaku isn't shaken by it.

While wrapping herself with magical power which is to the extent that the room is shaken. Slowly she turned her eyes towards the Earth Demon Lord.

And I saw it. That golden pupils of her turned into crimson blaze like a blood.

「─【Demon Eyes • Complete Destruction Explosion】」(Elfisuzaku)

The following instant. The world is being dyed by the color of a hell inferno and shortly after that the Earth Demon Lord exploded.

Hot wind rages inside the room and the whole room are vibrates while making a roaring sound.

For the scale and power that can't compare with my [Magic Break], the huge figure of an Earth Demon Lord vanished without trace.

Among those power which are possessed by Elfisuzaku are [Demon Eyes].

The eyes which possess demonic power and just by a glance a unique magic can be invoked.

「In spite of the fact in a state of losing power, however for possess such magical power.....」 (Iori)

The present me will easily fall victim if is given off such quality.

If it was a single blow during her golden days, not only the Earth Demon Lord but probably this entire room will blown entirely by her.

As she looking at me who is dumbfounded, Elfisuzaku had an expression of boastfulness on her face.

「Fu, Are you surprised? It's was reasonable for me to do so. For me that almost blew off an ally and it's all because of the demon eyes fault for mistaking the adjustment of power and it's not my fault, you hear me!?」 (Elfisuzaku)

It will be bad and you should just admit that.

Elfisuzaku demon eyes reverted from crimson blaze to its golden form.

The terrible magical power that it showed some time ago seems to have entirely discharged.

If the armoring of cave dragon is being attacked by average magic, the hardness of the armor will nullify it.

But, by just a single blow from Elfisuzaku the entire body of the Earth Demon Lord along with the armor itself has been blown off.

Even for a cave dragon it will be an instant death if being hit by such a single blow.

Of course, if it was just a common cave dragon.

```
[UOOOOooo!! ]
```

```
「Tsk」(Iori)
「WHAT」(Elfisuzaku)
```

The Earth Demon Lord is still alive even after receiving such blow from the demon eyes. Both of his eyes appear with a rage which could burn everything out.

As the BAKIBAKI sound echoes, the body which vanished has begun to regenerate.

As for the flesh and armor which exploded, even for the tail that has already been cut off, it returned to its former state.

「Something as the Cave Dragon that being able to use the healing magic is…」(Iori)

Although the dragon kind which had mighty power, they should not be this invincible.

There should be a limit for magic that can be used for each race. Including the cave dragon which is able to use the healing magic, I've never heard of it.

Although they cannot use any healing magic, Instead of that they have hard armor and high offensive ability.

[Such [we will be overturn that "Earth Demon Lord"]. Don't underestimate me, you insects [

「Did the labyrinth miasma had risen his power.....!」(Elfisuzaku)

The Earth Demon Lord which grew a tail raises its huge body.

For disgracing the Maou forces by doing something such as joining forces with the dwarf human and even inflicting a wound on me. I'll never forgive this! Soon your flesh will turn into stains in this labyrinth!!

All the wounds given so far have disappeared from the body of the Earth Demon Lord. Just during those ten seconds.

What remains is only the overwhelming huge body that does not change and same as before, anger because of the humiliation given.

「This is something beyond my expectations. For a dragon to have healing magic, the one that I know was only Beldia-chan pet」 (Elfisuzaku)

Even Elfisuzaku frowns when she saw healing magic of the Earth Demon Lord.

「Elfisuzaku do you think that this fellow will be able to use the healing magic once again? (Iori)

「Now, It seem like he had spent most of his magical power and the full exercise of healing magic should be impossible」(Elfisuzaku)

Hah, do you possess the demon eyes that even can see through the quantity of the magical power? Elfisuzaku conclude so by just watches the Earth Demon Lord with her red eyes.

Then it means that we can defeat that fellow if she can inflict the similar damage by using the demon eyes once again.

「Can you use the Demon Eyes once again?」(Iori)

「Yeah,but I need the same amount of time like before」(Elfisuzaku)

The arm of the Earth Demon Lord falls from above.

Thus we broke off the conversation and evacuated at the same time.

『I will crush both of you bastards and it will be starting from you ELFISUZAKU!! 』

The charge of several minutes is necessary for her demon eyes to give us the only power which can defeat the Earth Demon Lord.

For the meanwhile, being unable to use any magic and it may be said that I'm defenseless.

「I get it.I'll buy you some time」(Iori)

In the porch, I still have enough magic stones.

Although I am unable to inflict any damage, I'm still able to keep fighting.

「I understand, then I'll leave it to you Iori」 (Elfisuzaku)

By believing my words, Elfisuzaku starts to charge her demon eyes.

Such as trying to obstruct the Earth Demon Lord which begins to move.

On his current state of rage, Even if I entrust my power to restraint that fellow there is no doubt my bones will be crush entirely.

As if I let myself die in such a place.

Because there's still something I need to do.

I must escape by any means from here.

I stretch my hand inside the porch and grab the magic stone.

I draw the treasure sword with the other hand, when I was going to rush to the front in order to protect Elfisuzaku.

「----」(Iori)

I have noticed a certain thing.

I exposed defenseless right in front of Elfisuzaku who is accumulating the magical power.

While aware of the demon eyes, the Earth Demon Lord charges straight towards her.

Then, I've seen across of the Earth Demon Lord is the blocked path which connects this room to the metastasis formation.

The aim of the current Earth Demon Lord is narrowed down only to Elfisuzaku.

By only using some magic stone and [Magic Break] I might be able to break through the blocked path in several seconds.

If I abandon her right now by passing through the Earth Demon Lord, and run towards the exit—.

Thus by just abandoning her I'll able to save myself.

—With the choices that floated in my mind, I draw my hand which grasped the magic stone.

Episode 9: Turning Point

—If only I ditch Elfisuzaku, I might be able to escape from here.

Such thoughts, playing around in my mind.

With the current me, my attack won't go through the Earth Demon Lord hard armor.

At the time, that means that I would be exposed to a considerable dangerous situation.

I would lose my life with just a mere hit if I handle this poorly.

The Earth Demon Lord is approaching us while emitting an intense atmosphere.

There are only few seconds left for me to think it thoroughly.

In the first place, Elfisuzaku was the one who proposed this cooperation.

Similar as the time with Luser and my other companions, I'm just being dragged by the flow and forming a cooperation relationship unwillingly.

Taking in consideration that my partner is a Mazoku, perhaps she has some ulterior motive towards me.

「That's right」 (Iori)

Elfisuzaku is a Mazoku.

The enemy that I always fought against.

There's nothing wrong with one to betray an enemy.

Including lending help, it was something unnecessary.

This is my last chance to escape and survive from here.

I will be able to escape from here just with the price of betrayal.

Because there's something left that I need to do.

Elfisuzaku's back is faced toward me and currently she's still not aware of my movement.

With the intention of ditching her, I start moving my legs forward.

"ZATSU" sound is made from the sand as I start dashing.

Probably even Elfisuzaku would hear that sound.

She should've noticed that I was going to escape.

But.

$$\lceil ---- \rfloor$$
 (Elfisuzaku)

Still Elfisuzaku did not say anything.

With her exposed and defenseless figure. Yet, she still believed in me and continued charging her magical power.

—It's because you have saved me. Neither human nor Mazoku matters, right?

Then I recall those words.

Did she really think that way seriously?

Something like "Neither human nor Mazoku matters", though both race were hostile at each other, she still believed in me.

Elfisuzaku still didn't turn around.

If someone from the same caliber as her, she should understand now that I was going to escape.

With her back that faced towards me —she was simply continuing to put her trust in me.

[GuoOOO!!]

Suddenly, the Earth Demon Lord lifted his hand.

For certain, it is possible to smash a person easily just by swinging down those, and he was aiming towards the defenseless Elfisuzaku.

$$\lceil ---- \rfloor$$
 (lori)

Instinctively, without noticing myself.

I've already jumped while holding Elfisuzaku.

```
[lori.....] (Elfisuzaku)
```

She is in my arms with a surprised expression on her face.

As that arm has smashed down, the ground breaks and scattered.

I dodge the debris and take distance from the Earth Demon Lord.

[Just disappear already]

The Earth Demon Lord howled with a irritated groan.

The Earth Demon Lord opened its mouth widely.

It concentrates an enormous magical power into it.

An amount that'll surely kill both of us.

Yet, it is still possible for me to escape.

While that fellow still saves its magical power, that moment—

☐ I'll manage somehow to evade that blow. Then Elfisuzaku you should hurry ☐ (Iori)

Oh, I just spurt that out.

Ah, that's right.

It will be different if I just take the chance to escape from here.

Its better if I just take that chance.

But to deceive is no different than to betray.

It will make me no different from those bastards.

```
「一Arghhh!」 (Iori)
```

Looking at Elfisuzaku that nodded strongly, I've made my resolution.



Trying to shrewdly imitate me but it was no use because it will end soon, say your last prayers!

The Earth Demon Lord was howling.

Judging from the quantity of the magical power concentrated on its mouth, everything will end just by taking a hit from it.

Because the current me doesn't have the means to prevent it.

—Right, the present me.

The labyrinth core that I took out is shining in rainbow color.

It contains enough magical power to move the labyrinth.

That labyrinth core—I've crush it with my own hand.

The torrent of magical power from it began to flow onto the mark on my right hand. T/N last translation I probably use "proof" instead of "mark" or "sign".

Thus inside my body it felt like severely creaking caused by the magical power that rage like a storm, my sight was covered with noise.T/N the noise probably mean his sight is blurring

「─ahh」 (Iori)

Right after that, I instantly understood it.

Its—still not enough.

The magical power that is contained by the labyrinth core, unable to move the still imperfect mark.

I will inform this matter to the Maou. About you worthless bastard and that dwarf !! I

A loud laughter was given by the Earth Demon Lord after he was done accumulating his magical power. His magic has been completed and everything will be useless now.

「·····don't give up」 (Elfisuzaku)

Elfisuzaku that stands right before me isn't faltering even a bit.

She only believes in me and saved her magical power without worrying or doubting me.

[一【Death Stake】 』

Thus an enormous stake was created.

A stake with the size that is equal to the huge body of the Earth Demon Lord is fired like a bullet.

If something like that hits us directly, it will be the end.

```
「FUCK......!」 (Iori)
```

The mark isn't going to function even at the last moment.

I get awfully irritated for the power that doesn't act and above all towards myself that can't even do anything.

I take out the maximum quantity of the magic stones from the porch.

I grasp it tightly as if to extent the blood spread from my hand, Thus I let the magical power contained free.

Using the magic stone to the limit, the magic I use is only enough to prevent the stake.

```
「·····kuh」 (Iori)
```

Just by using the impossible magic for the current me, my magical power almost vanishes.

Overwhelmed by the lack of magical power to use it.

```
「There's something left that needs to be done by me」 (Iori)
```

As if I will let myself die in such a place.

Toward the unknown that blocks the "mark"— I forcibly try to break it, in order to draw magical power from it.

For certain, even if it isn't enough I'll need to draw it by force.

```
「DON'T GET IN MY WAY......!」 (Iori)
```

I throw out a shout as the stake keeps approaching.

My hand that I use to grasp tightly the magical stones starts to drip blood.

My right arm was scorching hot.

```
「OooOOOHH!!」 (Iori)
```

The magical power should be enough.

Burning magical powers overflows from the depths of my body, starting to gather into my right arm.

I extend my arm that felt like it was burning with a scream.

It was my strongest defense magic that can be used by the former me.

「【Magic Break Suppression/Makifuusatsu】一!」(Iori) *T/N sorry guys I don't have any idea to translate this "魔毀封殺" in cooler naming or should I just put "Makifuusatsu"?

It was a shield that is equal to the size of the incoming stake and it was developed right in front of me.

The stake crashes right into the shield and its movement is stopped while creating shock waves.

```
『WHAT.....!?』
```

Magic Break Suppression.

The unbreakable shield—is something I came up with when I created the defense magic.

Not only physical attack can be nullified, magic too. Literally, its a suppression shield of the light.

The unbreakable shield that was rivaling with that stake.

As I exercised it with incomplete form it started to shake and creaking.

Like hell I'm gonna lose.

```
「Gu─aaAAHHH.....!!」 (Iori)
```

I screamed while I stood firmly on the ground.

Thus the magic stones which were being grasped by me started to break simultaneously —

The stake and the shield broke and scattered simultaneously.

While the restless voice of the Earth Demon Lord echoes in the room.

.....I've manage to prevent it.

The outcome will be different if my magical power was slightly insufficient to maintain it, my shield certainly breaks due to it being overpowered.

By overexerting the use of magical power my whole body is being seized with weariness.

It felt like the mark on my right arm is on fire.

```
Then.....!
[Kuh] (Iori)
```

The Earth Demon Lord opened its mouth and was going to shoot the shell of rock.

Damn, I can't use that shield anymore.

Hit or miss, whether I can track its movement and deflect it by using the treasure sword.

```
「─Well done, Iori」 (Elfisuzaku)
```

As the dignified voice echoed, the Earth Demon Lord stiffed as he heard it.

The owner of the voice had her eyes dyed in crimson blaze and magical power that seem to rage violently emitted from her body.

```
[E.....Elfisuzaku!]
```

Realized that he is at disadvantage, the Earth Demon Lord cancelled executing his stone cannon.

Like the same way he appeared before, "ZUBUZUBU" and the huge figure started to sink into the ground.

```
☐ As if I let you! ☐ (Elfisuzaku)
```

Right before he could do that, Elfisuzaku made her move first.

She opened her crimson blaze eyes wide.

[Fools.....Like hell I'll let myself to be defeated here]

A flash of flaming crimson runs towards the Earth Demon Lord that makes him scream.

It caught the Earth Demon Lord who was about to sink into the ground, as the explosion occurred, my sight was blinded for a while.

Similar as before, it was a blow that seemed like a storm, able to vanish every armor and rock in an instant.

『Ga.....h』

Thus after the bursting smoke cleared up, the figure of the Earth Demon Lord that is being attacked by the demon eyes is visible. His entire body is burnt and one of its arms vanishes due to the explosion. Its certain a mortal wound.

But,

[I.....still not lose.....yet!]

[······You bastard are still!] (Elfisuzaku)

The Earth Demon Lord that was attacked by such power is still alive.

Though his magical power is almost depleted and is forcibly casting the healing magic, he's trying to heal his wound.

"BAKIBAKI", his wounds are healed at a slower speed unlike before.

[Kuh.....right now I'm running out of magical power.Only a little.....!]

(Elfisuzaku)

For Elfisuzaku using the demon eye twice, the result is she suppressed her contorted face caused by the effect of overexerting.

If the Earth Demon Lord starts to move again we don't have any skills to use this time.

But, I can't be defeated here after everything that I have gone through

「Elfisuzaku! Can you pour all of your remaining magical power into this sword?」 (lori)

「What do you intend to do?」 (Elfisuzaku)

「With this I will give the decisive blow to that fellow」 (Iori)

I handed the treasure sword to her and she began to pour her magical power into it.

```
「Sorry.....this is my limit」 (Elfisuzaku)
```

The treasure sword that was being imbued with Elfisuzaku magical power was dyed in blackish ominous color.

It was dreadful magical power.

```
「·····No, its enough!」 (Iori)
```

As I kick the ground, I start to dash towards the Earth Demon Lord.

While letting a cry of agony leak towards the approaching me the Earth

Demon Lord swung its arm down.

For such a desperate aim, it is easily being avoided, then immediately I flung to the side.

```
「UOOOOH!!」 (lori)
```

Thus, I jump over onto one of those arms.

"GOTSUGOTSU" over the arm being covered with rock, I dash at full speed.

```
「Let's end this, HERE」 (Iori)
『Gu─ooOOH!!』
```

The armor comes off as I swung down the treasure sword which is dyed in black to his bared head.

The blade pierces through the Earth Demon Lord flesh.

```
[Its..... futile!!]
[Tsk!] (Iori)
```

Nonetheless, the stab is still not enough to stop the Earth Demon Lord.

As the Earth Demon Lord shook its head, I have been thrown out into the air.

But the Treasure sword still pierces his head.

```
[DIE...,HUMA.....N!!]
```

Aiming toward me who was still in the sky, the Earth Demon Lord raises his arm.

For the current me it was impossible to dodge it.

But.

At that time, the Treasure Sword which was stuck on the Earth Demon Lord starts to shine.

What is THIS.....!?

Right before I fought with the Earth Demon Lord I've already thought of the counter measure beforehand.

One of the weak points of the cave dragon—is the body parts which are not covered with rock.

For that, ones should use that advantage to exercise a special attack into its body.

[Impossible did you.....you bastard, YOU BASTARD!!]

☐ Its the end for you, Earth Demon Lord ☐ (Iori)

That "Treasure Sword" is a magic item which contains a magical power inside it.

Its similar with the magic stone, which if its internal magical power is driven out of control it is possible to turn it into a bomb.

Even with the Treasure Sword own magical power is enough, but by adding the magical power of Elfisuzaku its effect should've increased. 「【Magic Break】─!!」 (Iori)

It exploded with a ominous light.

The hell fire of the magical power which ran out of control flows into the body of the Earth Demon Lord.

He is going to burst on his last moments.

As the head of the Earth Demon Lord explodes it gives a spark of magical power right after that.

The bursting smokes reaches to the ceiling.

"GURARI", the huge body that lost its head is about to drop.

Then the labyrinth shakes as the body that is like a hill began to sink.

Thus the Earth Demon Lord ceased to move.

The master of the labyrinth completely died this time.

```
[·····lori!] (Elfisuzaku)
```

Right before I fell to the ground, again Elfisuzaku caught and was holding me.

Our standpoint is being reversed again.

It was the effect of using the magic forcibly.

My body lost its strength as if the battery was being cut off.

In the arms of Elfisuzaku, my consciousness starts to fade away.

It felt like I was hearing something she was muttering about...

Episode 10: The Eyes That Can See Through Ones True Nature

It feels like I've sunk deep into the sea.

The moment when I perceived it, I've regained my consciousness and slowly opened my eyes.

```
「·····Ouch」 (Iori)
```

I feel aching all over my body, like I'm about to catch a cold that makes my body feel sluggish.

It was the familiar muscular pain that I've felt long time ago, and it was the symptom caused by lack of the magical power.

```
「Where am I.....」 (Iori)
```

As I looked above, I caught sight of the rough ceiling made of rock.

It is the scenery of the dim labyrinth.

It seems that I was lying somewhere around inside the labyrinth.

Yeah, thats right.

I've lost my consciousness after I won against the Earth Demon Lord and ran out of magical power right after that.

When I thought so, I've noticed that my head was laying on something that's blissfully soft.

It was elasticity soft, moreover there was a warmth feeling on it.

As I raise my face slowly, Elfisuzaku was looking into my face.

```
「Are you finally awake?」 (Elfisuzaku)
「Yeah......!?」 (Iori)
```

Somehow its like I've been sleeping like a log on this fellow lap.

```
「You don't need to be surprised that much」 (Elfisuzaku)
「······Well, something like placing my head on someone lap is a bit」 (Iori)
「Could it be, that you thought that I would abandon you?」 (Elfisuzaku)
「That's...... No, I'm really thankful and that was helpful」 (Iori)
```

Even if there is no obstacle that blocked the metastasis formation anymore, Elfisuzaku didn't abandon me. As I express my gratitude, I raised from her lap.

That how it should be, and you should be proud that I let you to put that head of yours on this lap of mine

(Elfisuzaku)

For, Elfisuzaku she was the same as always.

While she easily drifted by the words, I checked the condition of my body. It feels heavy but not to the extent that I cannot move at all.

It seems that a bit of my magical power has returned while I was sleeping.

As usual, the mark of hero has ceased from functioning.

But, the fact that the labyrinth core has been absorbed doesn't mean it was wasteful at all.

It seems that I was able to draw a bit of magical power from it.

With this, I will be able to use some low-class magic without depending solely on the magic stone.

「Somehow, I've manage to defeat that dragon. If I was by myself, probably I couldn't defeat him 」 (Elfisuzaku)

Elfisuzaku expressed her gratitude to me.

「·····No, I should be the one that says that because I'm the one being saved 」 (Iori)

For the truth, I cannot accept her gratitude at all.

Because there was the time, that I was trying to betray Elfisuzaku.

「I was really surprised with the shield that you used to prevent the magic that was casted by the Earth Demon Lord」 (Elfisuzaku)

Either she knows or not of my real intention before, but Elfisuzaku seems to be happy.

Magic Break Suppression.

Even if I look back, I can't understand how was I able to use that magic.

For me to use it again now, It was something impossible.

What on earth, was that actually.

「That's right. When I think about that」 (Elfisuzaku)

In a light tone, Elfisuzaku continued her words.

When I heard that word, I stiffened.

「─You're Amatsu, right?」 (Elfisuzaku)



「You.....」(Iori)

I became stiffened at her words which were thrown suddenly at me.

Did she say Amatsu? Me?

「As I thought」 (Elfisuzaku)

.....Damn it!.

I've failed to notice that Elfisuzaku was narrowing her eyes as she was reading my reaction.

It was impossible for me to cover it by making an excuse anymore.

「Kuh.....!」 (Iori)

I've taken some distance from Elfisuzaku that was still sitting down. For the Mazoku "Amatsu" is a similar existence as the Maou. It will be bad if my true identity is being exposed. That was a surprise.....Why did you suddenly ∫ (Elfisuzaku) Is what she said. Elfisuzaku didn't move and was surprised by me who suddenly jumped backwards. Did you really think that I will attack you? (Elfisuzaku) Firstly, even if I want to attack you, currently by the result of letting you use my lap as a lap pillow my legs are numb and I can't stand right now (Elfisuzaku) [..... (Iori) What was that. For me who jumped backwards suddenly, It makes me look like a fool.

Most of all, right now I have no reason to fight you. It just a matter of the

past, because currently I'm already being banished from the Maou

forces (Elfisuzaku)

「 (lori)

Its true, there seem to be no hostility from her.

If I think about it, if she was hostile towards me, certainly she would've killed me when I lost my consciousness back then.

If she did, I would've never experienced that lap pillow, right.

```
「······How long have you noticed it?」 (Iori)
```

Elfisuzaku proudly said $\ \lceil$ Its easy for me to notice such things solely by the magical power, you see $\ \rfloor$

I didn't notice it because your appearance has greatly changed. Geez, you should have just told me from the first we met, because both of us are already partners, you know \(\) (Elfisuzaku)

For opponents that had the intent to kill each other before, is there such relationship as partner between us?

 \lceil But, its been a long time "Amatsu". The last time we meet was 30 years ago isn't it \rfloor (Elfisuzaku)

Elfisuzaku happily said The scar left by you is still there, you know to me.

Although she was aware that I was "Amatsu", whats with this intimate atmosphere.

[I've never expected that you would survive from that. I was really surprised, you see] (Elfisuzaku)

```
「·····Somehow」(Iori)
```

Such as the fact that I had survived or I rather I would say that, actually when I gained my consciousness suddenly I was alive is more correctly to say, but.

Maybe its bad for me to say to others, but Amatsu seems to have been weakened too, huh. If it was the former you for such thing like that dragon, probably it was easy for you to defeat it, right? ☐ (Elfisuzaku)

「Because of some circumstance, I'm unable to use my power. For that reason I came to this labyrinth, to regain my power back (Iori)

「Oh, I get it. That's why you come to get the labyrinth core, its all for such a reason」 (Elfisuzaku)

「After all, its still not enough」 (Iori)

Just one labyrinth core isn't enough, although it was considerably troublesome to obtain it.

On earth, how much magical power does it actually need.

「A considerably amount of time has passed from that, but do you still fight as a hero?」 (Elfisuzaku)

```
「·····No」 (Iori)
```

Same as ever, there's still the mark of hero on my arm.

But now, I'm not a hero anymore.

「Elfisuzaku. If possible, just refer me by using Iori and not "Amatsu". I've already abandoned that name ↓ (Iori)

"Hero Amatsu" is already dead. Because such a innocent ideal of aiming for world peace is no more.

[······Is that so. Then from now I'll call you Iori] (Elfisuzaku)

Such attitude, did you try to sympathize with me by not touching the old stories.

Elfisuzaku was carefully trying not to inquire me about the past.

Ah, that's right.

She already saw the moment when I was betrayed by my companions.

Anyway, that will be fine if there is no hostility.

「Hei, Iori. What are you gonna do after this?」 (Elfisuzaku)

Elfisuzaku asks it while she's still sitting.

「·····after this, huh」 (Iori)

My last objective was the labyrinth core.

I succeeded obtaining it, but my magical power still hasn't returned after all.

Judging from what had happened, the method of using the labyrinth core was the right call after all.

The issue is the necessary amount of magical power needed.

To recover it completely, perhaps two or three labyrinth core are necessary to retain back my power.

As for my true aim, it is to carry out my vengeance towards my former companions who betrayed me.

For the present, I need to confirm everything that was told by Luser first.

Moreover, for such reasons I stole the treasure sword and other magical items from the treasure storage and it was regrettable that I didn't have the chance to use it on Luser.

[······l'll go to another country and challenge the labyrinth in the same way as here] (lori)

On the matter of my revenge, I've explained it to her.

The Earth Demon Lord this time was a really troublesome opponent than the last one I fought with.

For the next labyrinth, I need to make proper preparation and carefully take in consideration my equipment.

```
「Hohou」 (Elfisuzaku)
「······What?」 (Iori)
```

Right after, Elfisuzaku heard my words NYARI a grin appear on her face.

I have a bad feeling about this.

「What a coincidence, Iori. Actually, I also have some business to do with the Labyrinth」 (Elfisuzaku)

```
Is that so, then good luck for you. Then, I will start to collect those scales
from that Earth Demon Lord for now \( \) (Iori)
   「Hold up」 (Elfisuzaku)
 As I was trying to flee from her, I've been hold firmly on that spot.
 Shit, whats up with this absurd strength.
 I can't move at all.
   You see Iori, after I evaluated the fight from before, I'll permit you to
accompany me if you just prepare me a meal thrice a day, okay (Elfisuzaku)
   「I refuse」(Iori)
   「Eh!?」(Elfisuzaku)
  Elfisuzaku gives a surprising voice while her face shows that she didn't expect
to be refused by me.
 Well something as cooperating till outside of the labyrinth, I expected it,
certainly it will be something troublesome for me.
   Th~then how about twice a day meal with polishing my nails in it?
「No, thank you」(Iori)
   「How about one meal a day with polishing my nails in it?」 (Elfisuzaku)
   「I don't need it 」(Iori)
  What a persistent fellow she is.......
   It will be your win If you take me with you, you know!? (Elfisuzaku)
```

```
「Who do you think you are, huh」 (lori)

I'm the Maou itself, The former one!」 (Elfisuzaku)
```

What is this fellow saying. During the fight there was an overpowering feeling but now why do I just feel disappointment for her.

I'm really grateful for the alliance and it can't go further than that.

I release myself from Elfisuzaku who is throwing a tantrum, I start to move towards the Earth Demon Lord corpse.

```
「Huh, Hei IORI!」 (Elfisuzaku)
```

From a large sized demon, I might find some good material from it.

It'll even fetch a high price if sold and if it being processes I could make a strong armour and weapon from it.

Because it's a huge dragon, I might get some really good material.

Because there is a deep wound, If I cut it from the base of its flesh, it will possible to me to strip it off.

I could make a good weapon from its scale and tusk if I remove it properly from the roots.

Above all, <code>[Demon crystal]</code> also known as the demon's heart was something exceptional to be obtained.

If I use that, its possible for me to create a weapon that exceeds the treasure sword itself.

I've finally obtained the 「Demon Crystal」, at the time when I was going to put it away in my porch.

```
[*SHUBA*!] (Elfisuzaku)
```

Elfisuzaku snatched the 『Demon Crystal』 while producing a self created sound effect.

When I thought about that she just ran through the obstacles and jumped up with an extraordinary jumping power.

I dangled to the wall, as I try to reach my arm to the unreachable height.

「Fufun~, considering this was from the Earth Demon Lord, it seems to be a quite good 『Demon Crystal』 itself! Then IORI! Come with me if you want me to return this back to you! 」 (Elfisuzaku)

Shut up and give it back! (Iori)

NO! (Elfisuzaku)

「Geez, are you a child!」 (Iori)

What on earth is this!

「You see, no matter what, I need to go into the depths of the labyrinth! And you also had some business with it too, right!? Thus, can we just go together!?」 (Elfisuzaku)

As if a child asking for the impossible, she swings her hands and feet around while hanging on the wall.

Judging from this situation, if I want her to return the <code>[Demon Crystal]</code> it is the matter of how I respond to her.

It isn't absolutely necessary, but at my current state that is weakened. If

```
Indeed it is regrettable that "it" was snatched by her.
 「······I get it already. Firstly, I want to hear your story 」(Iori)
 Do you really mean it!? (Elfisuzaku)
 「Yeah」 (Iori)
As for the story.
Let's talk it properly by listening to her story.
 「Therefore, you must get down first」 (Iori)
 「Umu, I understood」 (Elfisuzaku)
With that, Elfisuzaku KOKURI nodded.
 [ ····· ] (Elfisuzaku)
 [..... (lori)
 [ ····· ] (Elfisuzaku)
 「Geez, just get down here already」(Iori)
While she was still hanging from the wall, she set her sight on me.
 「lori. There's some thing that I need to tell you first」 (Elfisuzaku)
 「······What is it?」 (Iori)
 「Umu, actually I'm not able to go down」 (Elfisuzaku)
```

possible, I want to equip the best equipment that I can find.

With a straight face, Elfisuzaku said that.

「lori.....Please help me to get down from here」 (Elfisuzaku)

While holding my head I breathe out a sigh.

Episode 11: Her Story

The truth is, the current me is just the head | (Elfisuzaku) Right after she came down to the ground, she just spurted out something unreasonable. As her circumstances to go to the labyrinth, I let her tell me what is her reason for which she wishes me to accompany her, but what did this fellow said? \(\cdot\) wou mean "head only" is something like there's nothing in it? 」(Iori) That not what I MEAN! I didn't say it like that and wait did you just tried to say that I'm an idiot? \(\text{ (Elfisuzaku)} \) [..... (Iori) Then Elfisuzaku begun to explain it in the angry state. When I summarize it. The present Elfisuzaku had her body and magical power divided into five parts. In here its only her head, and the other remaining parts were sealed in the other labyrinths. It seems that was the reason why she is weakened. As for being divide, didn't you have all of it now? ☐ (Iori) This is a body that I created using magic and it isn't my original body. I'll become the freshly-severed head if I remove this body, you want to see?

As for Elfisuzaku head, it was sealed in this Labyrinth of Hades.

「 Well, no, it'll shock me just by imagining it......」(Iori)

Exactly today, the seal was solved by her own strength and it seemed that she was trying to escape with just her head.

That was the reason why the Earth Demon Lord ran after her, huh.

Thats why I must go to the labyrinth to regain my sealed body After killing me, did Luser and the others perform the seal? No, I doubt that they would trouble themselves to seal it into five lord labyrinths. At my question, Elfisuzaku had a thinking expression on her face, after that she opened her mouth. Ortegia Van Zalfredo. Is the one that sealed me, the current Maou Maou Ortegia. The one that I had fought with before, The greatest enemy whom I had cornered and it was one last step left. Moreover he's the one that was leading the Maou forces and the very existence that tries to destroy the humans. \(\cdots \cdots \cdot \text{Why did Ortegia sealed you, Weren't you with the Maou forces, too?} \) (lori) Didn't I already told you. That I'm already removed from the Maou Force Assuming that is, why have you been sealed by the Maou itself? | (Iori) Hearing my question, Elfisuzaku let out a laugh that seem like she sneer at herself. You know, Iori. Do you still remember my name? (Elfisuzaku) 「·····? AH 」 (Iori) Elfisuzaku Giraldo. That should be her name. — Elfisuzaku Van Giraldo. That should be the name that I used to introduce myself to you before \(\) (Elfisuzaku) Why did I seem to remember something when I heard that name. Elfisuzaku Van Giraldo. On that Maou name too, it also has "Van" letter on it.

```
「 Did you actually 」(Iori)
「 Yeah 」(Elfisuzaku)
```

Elfisuzaku said with such eyes that seem like she had a faraway look in her eyes.

□ I was the "Former Maou"
 □ (Elfisuzaku)



In the past, I've heard it.

The title of "Maou", is the title given to the strongest one in the Mazoku. The mazoku whose defeated the Maou, will be chosen to be the next Maou itself.

At that time, a red crest will emerge on him/her as the proof that one became a Maou.

It is called "Maou crest".

Even I myself had saw the red crest on the body of Ortegia before.

This me is just a failure
 ∫ (Elfisuzaku)

Elfisuzaku says that to me seeming like she scorned herself.

On her body there's a "Black Crest" which lost its actual color and had been carved.

When she was dragged down from the seat of the Maou, it seems to have changed color from red to black.

It was only for several years that I gained the seat of the Maou. It was
before, the human Hero Amatsu who appeared from the other-world and had
his name spread all over the world appeared
 ☐ (Elfisuzaku)

When I came to this world, Ortegia already became the Maou.

☐ If I say so myself, I was in the moderate faction of the Mazoku. From the day when I became the Maou, I was going to suppress the war with the humans as much as I could ☐ (Elfisuzaku)

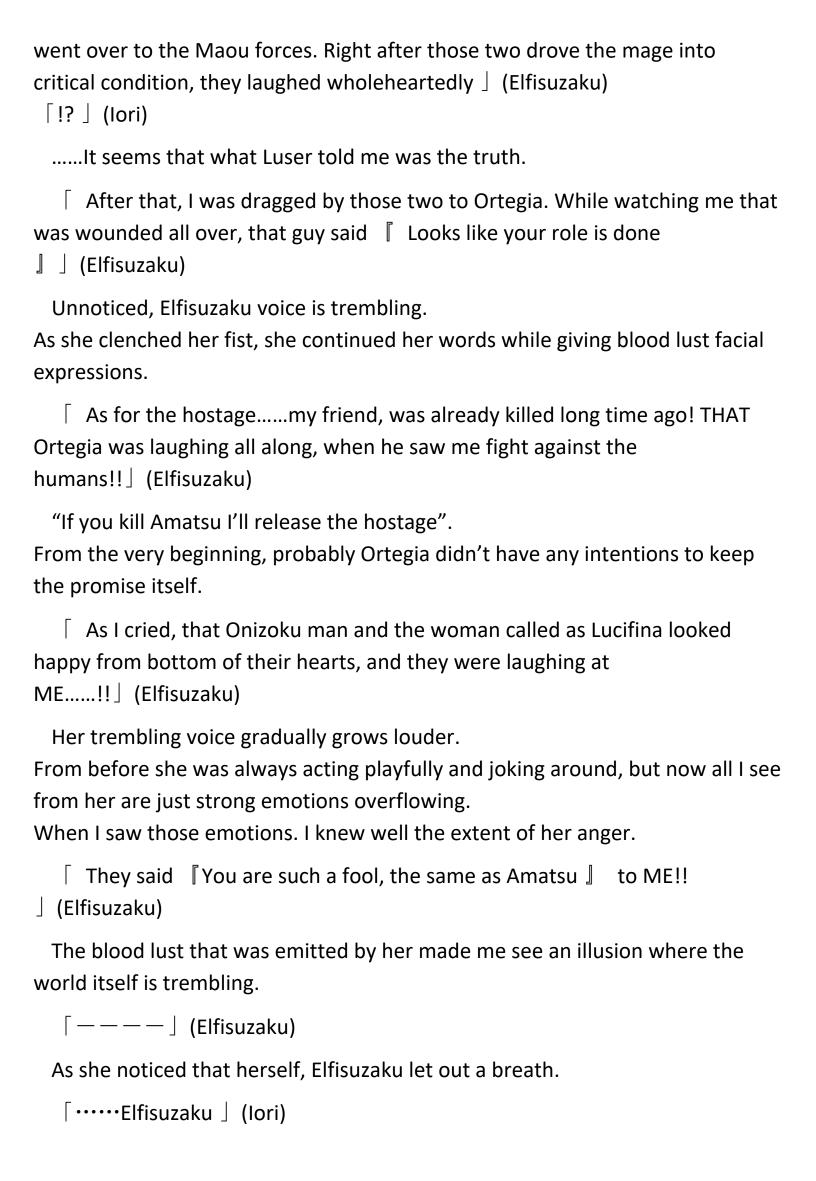
"Maybe some of them can't stomach it" as Elfisuzaku muttered.

The Mazoku that desired the war including Ortegia had rebelled against me. At that time, I've lost against Ortegia and had been dragged down from the

```
seat of the Maou | (Elfisuzaku)
 I was summoned, as the attack from the Maou forces intensified.
It was said that there wasn't any full-scale fight before that happened, and it
was just to degree of some minor skirmishes.
The replacement of the Maou from Elfisuzaku to Ortegia is probably the main
reason.
  Afterwards, that guy took my subordinates as hostage to force me to fight
against the humans | (Elfisuzaku)
 She threw up a bitter voice.
Ironically that the former Maou who was moderate was forced to fight.
 Oh, now I get it.
That is why she was not among the "King Four Devas", huh.
It was a position that cannot be given to someone who had the possibility to
rebel.
  For several years, while becoming the subordinate of Ortegia I was waiting
for an opportunity to save my friends and start my retaliation against him
However, the opportunity didn't come.
A person from the other-world was summoned and it was the "Hero Amatsu"
     "If you kill Amatsu I might release the hostages" is what Ortegia told me
I know the result, too.
Elfisuzaku was defeated and could not kill me.

    What happened after that? 
    ∫ (Iori)

 A human woman and Onizoku man. Someone known as Lucifina and Dionis?
「·····Yeah 」 (Iori)
 I made an awfully unpleasant expression as Elfisuzaku said those names.
  「······Beforehand I wanted to notify you. After murdering you, those two
```



「······I'm sorry. I've become slightly too emotional 」(Elfisuzaku)
She rambles that as she suppressed her emotions.
「······Afterwards, the woman called Lucifina cut my body into five parts 」(Elfisuzaku)
When one becomes a Maou class, they seem to be not easily die. Even if it's killed, it's possible to revive by taking some extent of time. Therefore, in order to prevent Elfisuzaku from reviving, they divided her body and magical power.
Thus for me whose being divided, that woman sealed it using the life force of Ortegia] (Elfisuzaku) 「⋯⋯Seal? Lucifina? 」 (Iori)
I've never seen that fellow using such as sealing magic before. The magic that Lucifina specialized in was "cutting". The one using barrier and sealing magic should be Luser.
Did she hide the fact that she could use other magic?
Thus, I was sealed in the Five Lord Labyrinth. Until what happened before (Elfisuzaku)
In my head, all information was connected.
The reason why Elfisuzaku was in this labyrinth. Why the Earth Demon Lord aiming at her. Why she lost her power.
☐ Thereforein order to recover my power, I must dive into the labyrinths ☐ (Elfisuzaku)
Thus, I understood the meaning of her words, why she must go to the labyrinth.
Γ
Elfisuzaku has business in the same way as me in Five Lord Labyrinth. Ironically, as for her purpose was the same as me 「 To regain my former

power $\mathbb{I}\,$,too.

「·····You, are you going to take your revenge against Ortegia? 」 (Iori)

Such question has overflowed from my mouth unconsciously.

The circumstances of Elfisuzaku were resembling mine a little.

The me who has been betrayed by my companions, Elfisuzaku where her friend was killed and then she had been sealed.

Then, her reply to me is.

```
「 I'm ─ 」 (Elfisuzaku)
```

At the time when Elfisuzaku was trying to gives her answer.

A chill ran through my spine.

I sensed that I've being aimed at by someone.

In reflex, I've dodge my body.

Magic pierced at the spot where I've stood once.

At the same time, there's multiple human presences.

In great numbers, they surged into the room where we were.

There were well built men that wore armors.

There are also some men that wore black robes while holding a canes.

In both of their chest was engraved the coat of arms of the kingdom.

The Kingdom Knights and the Kingdom Mages.

```
「·····The people of the kingdom, huh 」 (Iori)
```

Unnoticed, Elfisuzaku was already standing next to me.

Her eyes already turned to crimson blazes.

In front of us, the Knights and the mages that were cautious at both of us, there's a single man pass through them.

While swaying his black robe, with a heart pleasure expression shown on his face.

「KU, HAHAHA! Chasing after YOU was the correct answer after all!」 (Unknwon)

As I heard the person offensive words, I knew immediately the owner of that

voice.

「What's up, you seem fine, huh? A.M.A.T.S.U.K.I lori-ku~n?」 (Luser) By saying that Luser's laughed fiercely.

Episode 12: Child's Play

It was the military unit of the kingdom which is being led by Luser entering from the entrance of the labyrinth.

.....A troublesome fellow has come.

Time has passed after the fight with the Earth Demon Lord ended. They might have entered the labyrinth while I was still unconscious.

「I certainly thought......that you will be thrown into the prison」(Iori)

 \lceil Ah, that was about to happen. It was hard to prove that I'm innocent, you see? \rfloor (Luser)

Because he led the combined forces consisting of knights and mages of the kingdom, he would avoid his plan to kill me for the time being.

There are fifteen knights and ten mages. Including Luser there are twenty six enemies lined up.

This magical power. That woman..... is a Mazoku! (Luser)

Tsk, detestable

As the knights that waited behind Luser noticed it, they showed detestable looks on thier face.

```
「·····Fumu」(Elfisuzaku)
```

Elfisuzaku just murmured lightly and she does not show any great reaction to it.

This time its like I was the one caught up in a problem, for now I don't have any intent to deal with it.

「My dear Amatsuki-kun. What's with that Mazoku? I've never thought that you.....would defect to the Mazoku side?」 (Luser)

「She's unrelated with all of this」(Iori)

But my reply, seems to not be taken by the knights that are waiting behind him.

As a Hero, What kind of attitude is that, to overlook the Mazoku! KILL THAT MAZOKU RIGHT NOW!

Stealing the national treasure and in addition associating with the Mazoku, on earth, what are your intentions!?

Stop all this foolishness!

While the Knight was shouting towards me, his saliva was scattering.

It seems like the pair of Hero and Mazoku was something unforgivable for them.

"Stop it" was what Luser said when he opened his mouth.

\[\text{Well, that's fine.For now,the main subject. Amatsuki Iori─return the national treasure along with the Magic Stone that you took, and come back to

the Kingdom. If you pledge to devote yourself to the Kingdom, all your crimes will be forgiven \(\) (Luser)

Luser said that fluently while pointing to the <code>[Magic Bracelet of Defense]</code> and <code>[Magic Ring of Strength]</code> that were worn by me.

☐ Is that what His Majesty The King says......Do you intend to come back to the kingdom obediently? ☐ (Luser)

「······But do you think that's it?」 (Luser)

Even if there's conditions, I cannot return to the kingdom. It also seems that Luser is the one who came with such ideas.

「Well?As for your reminder. His Majesty permits us to kill you if you are trying to resist, you see. For me, that is more convenient.

(Luser)

As he laughed lasciviously. The party waiting behind him was holding their weapons.

「But......I don't know how did you defeat that Earth Demon Lord, as I see it took quite a toll on you, huh? With that, do you think that you'll be able to defeat all of us?」 (Luser)

For those behind him, it was just a small fry, but in this exhausted state it was impossible for me to fight Luser head on. In the first place, I can't kill him while he wears that robe.

And of course, I will not let that Mazoku live either. We will capture and

torture her, then execute her by gibbeted her? [(Luser) * for those who want to know what gibbeted
「Pardon me for saying this, but Luser-dono. To let such filth step her foot into the Kingdom, it is something intolerable」
\lceil Its better to torture her here, then kill her in this labyrinth $ floor$
Is what the Knight responded to the words of Luser.
Either way, they really intend to kill Elfisuzaku.
It was different from the incident with the Earth Demon Lord, where I just go involved in between them.
Not long after that Luser clapped his hand.
「Ahh, That's right. Then, let's give the last chance to the hero. Kill that Mazoku using your own hands. Afterwards surrender yourself to us, then we will not kill you. Aren't I merciful, right?」 (Luser)
「As expected of Luser-dono, a good idea indeed」
\lceil Not to mention a Mazoku, It was unworthy to keep her alive and its better to let the foolish Hero get merit by killing it himself $ floor$
As if it was a good idea, those people nodded at the suggestion of Luser.
「Hero Amatsuki Iori-dono. If there's barely any pride as a Hero remaining, CUT DOWN THAT MAZOKU RIGHT NOW!」
Those guys jeered as they insisted to make me kill her with my own hand.
As he observing my reaction, Luser was smirking with "NIYANIYA".

Briefly, I turned my gaze towards Elfisuzaku, but I cannot read any emotions from her expression.

Without saying anything, she simply just closed her eyes and kept silence.

To kill Elfisuzaku with my own hand, huh.

Fools.

It's you who I want to kill, and there is no reason for me to kill this woman.

「Hah! Is Hero Amatsuki-sama too soft and that makes him unable to kill that Mazoku?」 (Luser)

Luser was provoking me whom stood firmly on the ground.

That bastard already knew from the start that I will not pay heed to everything that has been told by him.

He was simply, waiting for my reasoning to be clouded with anger.

「Such as 『I want to protect my little sister』, then letting your attitude soften suddenly, its like a attitude of some Hero that I knew!」(Luser)

Its a cheap provocation.

He was trying to plunge me into anger, but I don't heed to his mimicry.

「It's a masterpiece! Little sister? There's no such thing, you know!!」 (Luser)

Indeed, it's harsh.

To stop that foul mouth of his, I've extended my hand into my pouch.

```
Geez, the race known as Hero, is there only a flower garden in their
heads—」 (Luser)
   「─Shut up」 (Elfisuzaku)
 That instant the atmosphere froze.
 To the extent that it makes them feel a chill just from the bloodlust given.
 Luser held his breath, and the knights on his rear were shrieking.
   Shut your trap, I don't want to hear anything from each and everyone of
you bastards (Elfisuzaku)
  Elfisuzaku which was devoted to watch till now, stepped forward.
   「W......what, you bastard......」(Luser)
   Are you deaf? I told you to SHUT UP ↓ (Elfisuzaku)
   [·····!] (Luser)
  Elfisuzaku glares at Luser coldly.
  Luser edged back, as he held his breath like its been cut off.
   Judging from the flow of the story, I understood the circumstances of Iori
somehow | (Elfisuzaku)
   [ ..... (lori)
   I've been laughed at by the Mazoku and you were being cursed by the
humans. Hey lori, don't you think that we are similar? \( \text{(Elfisuzaku)} \)
   「Yeah」 (Iori)
```

I got tired of it.

Both of us mutually agree, to hell with the racism.

```
「All of you get ready!」 (Luser)
```

Receiving the bloodthirst of Elfisuzaku, the opponent was in their battle stance.

Targeting both me and Elfisuzaku, they were ready to invoke their magic.

「Won't you say "Stay out of this"? To receive such an insult, I am not very tolerant to just overlook it, you know ☐ (Elfisuzaku)

Elfisuzaku nodded while laughing a bit.



Don't hesitate! The enemy is just a worthless Hero and a wounded Mazoku, its just two of them!

Oi, you guys, KILL THEM!

By doing that, the bunch that came to their senses launched an attack simultaneously.

Multiple types of magic came flying all at once.

Probably they intended to kill us from the start, they're already done with chanting beforehand.

Every type of magic has deadly power in it, probably in order to certainly kill

both of us.

Luser kept his composure, as he had self-confidence of being able to surely kill me by the first hand.

While watching the incoming magic, in a state of unwavering Elfisuzaku says.

「Of course I won't」(Iori)

Elfisuzaku let out a small laugh, and right after that her eyes turned into crimson blaze.

「KUHAHAHA! GET BLOWN OFF, YOU SCUM!」 (Luser)

Luser laughs, as he's convinced that the magic will hit us.

Right before the magic hits, Elfisuzaku.

「一【Demon Eyes • Heavy Gravitation】一」(Elfisuzaku) *T/N if there anyone could find a better wording for this 魔眼 • 重圧潰 for me just use the comment.

All magic attacks fell to the ground due to the gravity which was created by her magical power.

Each of those magic attacks is destroyed one after another without reaching us.

```
「WHA!?」

☐Demon Eyes!?」
```

While Luser has a disturbed expression on his face, I throw multiples magic stones at the feet of this bunch simultaneously.

As those guys gained back their senses, it was already too late for them.

```
「HII~」
「NOoo~」
```

Mercilessly the explosion of magic stones swallowed the people who failed to escape.

```
「GYAAaaaaaa~」
「LEGS, MY LEGS ARGHHHHH~!」
```

The bunch that got caught by the explosion raises their screams.

Most of the mages were blown off, and some of the knight rolled on ground, too

Being barely able to exercise the defense magic right before it, they weren't annihilated completely.

But, his reaction time is considerably slower in comparison to his prime days.

If it was in the past, an attack of this degree would be easily prevented by him.

```
「You've become weak, Luser」(Iori)
「Wha.....This, SHIT~!」(Luser)
```

Luser which is consumed by rage, raises his hand to invoke magic.

As the magic is invoked, at that time there's a knight who lost his self-control and is rushing out towards me.

```
「W,wait!」(Luser)
「HERO, YOU BASTARD!」
```

Its convenient.

I jump aside and derive the movement of the knight.

The enraged knight, unawares that he enters in his own companion magic range.

Luser canceled his magic as he was trying to avoid friendly fire.

```
「How dare you, trying to make me to……you low-life!」 (Luser) T/N* How dare you my companion……you low-life!* #from direct translation
```

```
「······Heh, I don't want to hear that especially from YOU」 (Iori)
「Hah, eh?」
```

As I dodge the Knight's rough swing, at that instant.

With the spare sword that I took from the pouch, I've chopped off the knight head.

Thus, the chopped head fluttered in the air with a dumbfounded expression on his face.

```
「DAMN YOU!」 (Luser)
```

As the death of a companion being confirmed, the magic came flying all at once.

At the same time I kick the body of knight who just lost his head to become my shield.

I lower my stance that seems like I'm crawling on the ground, as I evade from the magic I've approached the knight.

```
「Wha!?」
「······Dull」 (Iori)
```

For the knight who stands to protect the mages, I've swung my sword aiming for his ankle.

```
[HI, HIGYAAaaaaa~]
```

The knight that I've cut through the ankle, fell into the ground with a scream.

After what I've done to their companion, everyone in that place has set their attention towards me.

And Elfisuzaku didn't miss such good chance.

```
「─lori」(Elfisuzaku)
```

As I heard her voice, I've jumped aside as hard as I could.

In that instant, the eyes of Elfisuzaku glow into crimson blaze.

```
「Fools, in FRONT!」 (Luser)
```

Only Luser was able to correspond to that.

【 Demon Eyes • Complete Destruction Explosion 】 (Elfisuzaku)

At the same time when the demon eyes were unleashed, the mages created a barrier to protect themselves.

But, as for those knights that are unable to take a countermeasure against it, raised their screams as they were being swallowed by the explosion.

What remained is only their ashes.

```
「Su,such!?」
「Hi,HIAAA~」
```

Seeing the knights which have been exterminated completely, the remaining mages fell into a state of panic.

Because of their companions who died in an instant, the remaining ones lost their composure.

```
\lceil ......surprisingly, to bring only the guys who aren't used to battles, huh \rfloor (lori)
```

Probably they were only involved with safe fights before, huh.

The mages mortified by the death right in front of their eyes, it made them

unable to invoke any magic.

Therefore, they can't react to the magic stones that I throw at them.

```
「Tsk, what a useless bunch!」 (Iori)
「Eh, Argh!?」
```

I've kicked the clueless mage, while Luser managed to put out the barrier.

With clueless expressions, all the remaining mages were caught in the explosion.

Only Luser remains now.

His composure from before is gone.

He trembles and begins to curse his fallen subordinates abusively.

```
「······Pitiful」 (Elfisuzaku)
「Hiii!?」 (Luser)
```

Before I noticed it, Elfisuzaku already stepped forward.

With awfully cold eyes, I've looked at Luser.

Its two against one.

Because he lost his advantage in numbers, Luser face was drawn.

「W,wait! Don't get closer! Please wait, I beg you!」 (Luser)

Judging that his situation is disadvantageous.

Luser lifted both of his hand to make a surrender pose.

[I, I understand! I won't attack anymore! And I won't chase you anymore! Forgive me!!] (Luser)

Luser who lowered his head says this with his trembling voice.

Elfisuzaku stopped her movement hearing those words.

That instant.

「Got you, as if I would say that!!」 (Luser)

He raised his right hand that had flames on it, as he turned it towards Elfisuzaku.

When he was going to shoot that, simultaneously Luser's face was being warped by a smile.

「一Ah?」(Luser)

Luser's right arm flew into the air, right after I chopped it off using my sword.

As the arm that fluttered in the air fell on the ground.

Luser watched it with a dumbfounded expression on his face.

```
「Hi, a, aaaAAAAHHH!?」 (Luser)
```

Luser screams after he paused for a few seconds.

He writhe on the ground, while he was putting on pressure on his severed arm.

Finally, the sword went through.

The Knight's sword from before was unable to go through the robe defense, but with my present sword it seems possible.

Back then when the Knight's sword was unable to cut through the robe, I was awfully discouraged by it.

Finally, I'm able to return back what he owes me.

「Just now, why did you stop your attack?」 (Iori)

I averted my eyes from Luser which writhed and asked Elfisuzaku.

Do you yield to Luser who was begging for his life?

This fellow is your game, right? That's why I thought that I should leave it to you ☐ (Elfisuzaku)

「Ah, that right. That's really helpful」 (Iori)

I've no intention to let Elfisuzaku finish him off.

Because I'll be the one to kill this bastard.

In addition, I cannot kill him right now because he wore that self-destroy

robe. 「Amatsu.....! Ho, how dare you.....to, to my arm!!」 (Luser) When you say so, didn't you cut off my arm thirty years ago. And how did it feel having your right arm being cut off? (Iori) DON'T JOKE WITH ME......! DAMN, DAMNDAMNDAMN IT~! (Luser) Luser's wound was getting healed naturally, while he screams. It seems like there's some kind of magic on his body. If I try to kill him off, he might still be fine if that self-destroy robe is still worn. To look at me with such eyes.....I wont forgive you.....I wont forgive you.....! | (Luser) The murmuring Luser turned his gaze towards Elfisuzaku suddenly. That's right.....you, I've remembered you! At that time, the Mazoku that I fought at the Demon Castle once.....! (Luser) Thus, he had a smile "NYARI" as if he found means of escape. You remember too, right!? At that Demon Castle, Amatsu party that you fought before! He is Amatsuki Iori, the Amatsu who defeated you its him! 「So?」 (Elfisuzaku) So, you should hold a grudge towards Amatsu, right!? I'll lend you my help! Therefore, both of us should kill that Amatsu together! \(\) (Luser)

He tried to persuade her as he was trying to keep his life.

While his ass was still down on the ground, Luser reached out his remaining arm towards Elfisuzaku.

When his arm was about to touch Elfisuzaku, right after that.

A "MEKIRI" or something like cracking sound was echoes.

```
「GYAAAAAAAAAA~!!」 (Luser)
```

The arm which stretched out to Elfisuzaku was crushed by gravity forces produced by the demon eyes.

As the sound of breaking bones sounded, the screams of Luser echoed with it.

「······lori. This is just my advice to you, you should choose your friends wisely, you know 」 (Elfisuzaku)

「You're right, I've got nothing to say about it」 (Iori)

He should realize that there's no room for negotiations.

"HII", leaks from Luser's mouth, who lost both of his hand while crawling back.

「I don't know」 (Iori)

「HA,HAH!?」(Luser)

Amatsu only knows, Lucifina the swords-woman or that wise Onizoku. But

for a nobody like you, why would he bother himself to remember you. To begin with, there no meaning by doing so \(\text{(Elfisuzaku)} \)

```
「That's.....」 (Luser)
```

Luser had a despair expression on his face.

Elfisuzaku raised her foot as she wanted to silence him. * T/N because Luser's keep ranting

「Remember this......! I'll remember your face! Altogether with Amatsu, I'll absolutely send both of you to hel~Gahh」 (Luser)

Elfisuzaku threw a kick directly on Luser's face. Right after Luser produced some strange voice, he lost his consciousness.

Because there's still a self-destroy on him, I can't kill him right now. Besides, I have something that I need to confirm from him.

The number of traitors.

I need make him spit it out.

Because I've got a method to do so.

I wonder if this is what they call a "child's play".

With this, all the pursuers from the Kingdom were annihilated.

Episode 13: Former Hero and Former Maou

The robe of the Imperial Court magician.

It's a robe that is especially made by the kingdom for the Imperial Court magician.

But the one worn by Luser was heavily remodeled with multiple arts/techniques being engraved on it.

There's a lot of magic residing all over Luser's body, after she examined it.

Its a number that include healing magic, defense magic and reflection magic.

It was an excessive quantity, impossible for Elfisuzaku to do something about it.

「Is it impossible for you to do something with it?」 (Iori) 「Yeah. The magic is interlocked complicatedly, and it can't be released by the current me」 (Elfisuzaku) 「······that's fine. Even without the robe, I've lots of means to kill this guy」 (Iori)

Such as, drowning him into the river by tying him up.

Or inflicting some wound that won't kill him, instead let him die by blood loss.

I may force him to drink a slow acting poison, too.

It will troublesome preparing the magic stone to use 【Magic Break】, I might be able to kill him by making full use of the explosion lag that is created by it.

But, Elfisuzaku shook her head for disapproval.

「You should stop it. Try looking at this」 (Elfisuzaku) Elfisuzaku turned over the robe and pointed to the other side.

On the back of the robe, a magic type and magic formula is engraved heavily.

「Even if there are lots of troublesome devices, I admit that is impossible for the current me to solve this now.」 (Iori) 「You're wrong. Look carefully. Its assembled with multiple types of magic and magic formations, as 『One way system』」 (Elfisuzaku)

To hear the words of Elfisuzaku which exercised her devil eyes, I finally noticed.

There's dozens of arts/techniques being combined and being constructed into one way system.

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「What.....is this」(Iori)
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When I saw the self-destroy formation, I was shocked after I saw an ominous quantity of magical power residing on it.

However, this was not as simple as it seems.

Precisely, I get goosebumps by looking it. It was something that would take several years, even for Luser to accumulate this amount of magical power.

I've never seen this technique once, even during my long journey back then.

[" Karma of Reverse Burial"......It a magic to control the cause and effect. "Cause of Death It's a technique to inflict the same damage to the other person in return to the damage that the practitioner receives. In brief, its a magic that will take everything together with you after you kill yourself (Elfisuzaku)

If I try to recall it, Luser never had such magic before.

I can assert that even during the time when I was able to use the magical power of the "Marks/proof", I'm not sure if I can handle such magic.

「Considerable magical power resistance is necessary, to defend against it. Not to mention lori, even me myself can't withstand it ☐ (Elfisuzaku) I've got very limited knowledge about the existence of such magic. If that is the case, then this is.

The magic that is not being practiced at the present age anymore, an existence considered being lost.

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「·····its a "Lost Magic", huh」(Iori)
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That's right, To think that he was able to use such magic......as far as I know, only the subordinate of Ortegia known as "Death God" is able to use it (Elfisuzaku) It was the name that I've never heard before.

I've defeated the Five Great Demon Lords and King Four Devas once, but I've never encounter that "Death God" fellow once.

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「·····are you telling me that Luser learned this from that fellow?」 (Iori)
「I'm not sure. Either this man obtained it by himself or it was taught to him.
…… but, it doesn't change the fact that it is very troublesome magic itself」 (Elfisuzaku) 「······Damn it」 (Iori)
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I thought that he's just a scum, I've never thought that he would go this far.

With self-destroy magic and even the lost magic, he really is a troublesome guy.

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「·····Well, that's fine」(Iori)
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Before killing him, there's something I want to do first.

I want to know about the truth behind the betrayal by using the magical item that I stole from the treasure storage. It needs a proper place to use it, but it's a best tool to be used on Luser right now.

I wasn't able to use it on Luser before because I got no opportunity to do so.

「······It was really helpful for me that he came to the labyrinth himself.

Thanks to that, I'm able to use this ∫ (lori) From the pouch, I took out a golden knife.

It was one of the magical items that I stole from the treasure storage.

「Is it 『Golden Sword of Probing』?」(Elfisuzaku) 「Yeah」(Iori) Golden Sword of Probing.

When struck into the target subject, it has the effect to investigate specific memory from the subject. But it will lose its effect after a one time use. That is

why, its a considerably rare magic item.

☐ The thing that I'm looking for is the memory related to the traitors ☐ (lori)

This fellow stated that he was approached by Lucifina to murder me. Similar with those demi-humans that took part in the coalition but ended up being betrayed like him.

I'm going to verify the truth right now.

I specify the designated memory that I want to probe, while I thrust the knife into cross section of his amputated arm.

「GYAAAAaaaaAAAAA!?」 (Luser) Right after that, the designated memory is sent from the blade into the handle.



『That fool trusts us completely. If its you, it'll be easy for you to cut off his arm from the rear, right?』 (Dionis) 『We'll give you the signal. Luser-san you just need to follow it』 (Lucifina) 『Ah, I got it. But I'll be the one to who receive the honor for slaying the Maou』 (Luser)

[Yes, let's make a promise] (Lucifina) From the flowing memory. I've seen the figures of Lucifina and Dionis, clearly.

I start to imagine that stupid face of Amatsu, you know. But after realising that he's been deceived, It'll be seriously hard to endure our laugh, right? (Dionis) He won't be suspicious of it, because he's just a fool intoxicated by his ideal.

Oh well, its bad to deceive a fool, you know \(\) (Luser) Lucifina who was always gentle and smiled to everyone, had a smile tainted with desire and greed on her face.

Dionis that always had a carefree smile on his face, let out a malicious laugh.

Luser was laughing in high spirits that echoed throughout in the quite room.

Synchronous with the memory of Luser, my emotions start to flow with it.

Malice.

Such as "How will we kill Amatsu"

"What will his reaction be towards the betrayal?"

"When that stupid face will be distorted by despair, Will I able to hold my laughter?"

The feelings that flowed are only malicious.

"The honor of slaying the Maou is mine, Amatsu is only a tool for me to use in order to obtain it"

"Therefore, you're already unnecessary"

Such emotions and thoughts flow into me.

$$\lceil ---- \rfloor$$
 (Iori)

A scene was replaced, after the noise in my sight clears up. *T/N I think the noise that the Author implies are similar with old TV that lost it signal.

The words of betrayal that were heard by Luser engraved in my brain.

Among those echoing voice, what I learned by hearing it was.

[Kill amatsu? that's good. Because for some time, that guy existence is just an eyesore.]

[Having both of the nuisances to disappear at the same time, huh. Yep, I got no objection with it. Let me cooperate by all means]

The people who helped me on my journey.

The people who approached me, that told me that they'll lend their cooperation to me.

There were various demi-humans, tribal heads and the noble from the empire was in there.

[We will lend you our power to repay the favor for saving us]

[I want to cooperate to realise your ideal]

Saying so, the party that was approaching me says that while laughing heartily.

After that, everyone agreed with the rewards offered by Lucifina, from that they cooperated to restrict the army that was supposed to be my reinforcement.

I've got a plan, to make sure that Amatsu will certainly be killed.

In order to kill me, everyone cooperated to organise the strategy.

There's no one objecting with such a plan because everyone involved themselves willingly.

My precious companions.

Companions whom I trusted.

Everyone whom I wanted to protect.

The memory in which they were going to betray me, is carved deeply into my brain.

♦

After I finished watching the memory which I appointed, my consciousness returned.

The Golden Sword of Probing which finished its duty, lost its effect in my hand.

「·····Such things」 (Iori)

Such as Gold and honor, to desire such things that badly, huh.

Did they badly needed it, to the extent of desperately wanting to kill me.

Hearing the stories is different from experience it yourself.

That foolish voice that was cursing me and those annoying laughing voices, are burnt into my head.

「Ahh....., I'll kill every single one of them」 (Iori) Unaware that there's liquid flowing on my cheeks, while I wipe it I throw out a laugh.

「ARGHHHHHHHH→」 (Iori) Luser which had a knife stuck into his wound was screaming in pain.

Although, its harsh on my ear, it was something that pleased my heart.

「I won't kill you, yet」(Iori)

I whisper those words into Luser's ear.

☐ If I simply kill you now, it won't be revenge ☐ (Iori) I will make them regret betraying me from the bottom of their hearts.

I'll use any means to make them realise that betraying me was their greatest mistake.

I'll make them grovel on the ground trying to ask for forgiveness from the bottom of their hearts.

With that in mind, I'll kill them.

「Till the time when I come to take your life, I'll let you suffer from the pain of losing your right arm」 (Iori) I've took the magic stone and rolled it towards the dismembered Luser right arm.

Thus it explodes and scattered around, it was in the state where it is impossible to recover it by using any kind of healing magic.

[A.....ah] (Luser) Luser's facial expression turned to despair.

[I'll...kill...you] (Luser) [Yeah. Thats what I intend to do to you] (Iori) As I feel satisfied with it, I scoop out the knife that's been stuck deeply in his wound.

Without giving any screams, Luser fainted from the pain while letting out bubble foam from his mouth.

It is annoying that this gouging wound, will be closed by the healing magic granted by the robe.

I will kill both of the demi-humans and humans.

I'll kill the Mages and the Knights, too.

Even if they are nobles or spies belonging to the Maou forces. If I got my hand

on either of them, I'll surely kill them.

☐ is that the reason to recover your power? ☐ (Elfisuzaku) Elfisuzaku who fell in silence till now, asked me a question.

Yeah, that's right. I need the power to extract my revenge. Towards my companions and those people that thought "You are already worthless and its time to kill you", In order to monopolizes an achievement by himself, and those two who were spies from the Maou forces from the beginning. It is a masterpiece, right? \(\text{[Iori]} \) (Iori) It was only me to have advocated an ideal of coexisting.

I feel the urge to vomit as I remember my innocent self.

「Elfisuzaku. Its the continuation of our talk from before. What is your reason to recover your power?」 (Iori)

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☐ Its vengeance  (Elfisuzaku)
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It was a cold voice to the extent it made me shudder, just hearing her response to my question.

「I'll kill those Mazoku that killed my subordinate. I'll kill that laughing Onizoku guy along with that woman who sealed me. Lastly, I'll kill that Ortegia (Elfisuzaku) After that, Elfisuzaku says.

「I will become the Maou once again」 (Elfisuzaku) It was a different tone from before, her voice now was filled with murderous intent in it.

That's why, those feelings of the hatred inside her stood out.

Yes, as expected.

She and myself are of the same kind after all.

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「After I became the Maou, Afterwards─」 (Elfisuzaku)
「······Afterwards?」 (Iori) 「No.....its nothing」 (Elfisuzaku)
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Elfisuzaku shakes her head and broke off her words

「As I thought, We're similar, right」 (Elfisuzaku) 「……Yeah」 (Iori) The Hero who seeked the world peace and had been killed by his fellow companions.

The moderate Maou that had her subordinate killed and got sealed.

Although our standpoints were the opposite, our circumstances resembled each other so close its funny.

If its her—.

It was that time when such a thought floated in the corner of my head.

[" That's why......this time" is what you said before [(lori) Her golden eyes, stared directly into my eyes.

If you cooperate with me then I'll cooperate with you. I'll lend you my hand to extract your revenge then you need to lend your hand to extract my revenge ☐ (Elfisuzaku) The destination and the targets are the same.

In order to achieve revenge both of us must regain our powers.

「As long as you are my friend, I will never betray you」 (Elfisuzaku) Therefore—.

The atmosphere given by her was the opposite of her playful attitude from back then.

With dignity to the extent it could make one's body tremble, she said.

「Come with me —" Former Hero"」 (Elfisuzaku) * T/N this line could be read as 「Join me—" Former Hero"」

I stretch out my hand towards the Former Maou who said those words.

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\lceil ---- \rfloor (Iori)
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I came to realise. That the labyrinth was strengthened, I can't defeat the Demon Lords with the current me. Even if I arrange my equipment, there a limit of what I can do by myself.

If you can't do it alone, you should take any help that you can get. In the present conditions, even if there's no trust I've allied with someone that has great affinity with me.

I stare directly into golden eyes in front of me.

Then as I remembered "You're unnecessary", "Only you that had such Ideal" while they laughed at me. I made a promise with myself. I'll do whatever it

takes to extract my revenge towards them.

Then. I should use anyone I can, to achieve that.

Even if there's no trust, as long as the common interest was there. With the same place and the same purpose, I won't be betrayed easily.

I make a friend, and accept the risk of being betrayed.

In order to extract my revenge.

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「─Oh~」 (Elfisuzaku) I take the hand of Elfisuzaku.
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「I'll be in your care, "Former Maou"」(Iori)



After putting the necessary things into the pouch. I collapse the pathway towards the metastasis formation. After Elfisuzaku poured her magical power into the metastasis formation it begins to shine.

「Kufufu」 (Elfisuzaku) Elfisuzaku was in a good mood as she got on the metastasis formation.

As both our body were covered by the light emitted by the metastasis formation.

I turned my gaze towards the room in which Luser rolled before it was completely covered.

Luser. Next Dionis and Lucifina Lucifina Lucifina Lucifina Lucifina Lucifina Lucifina Lucifina Lucifina Lucifina Lucifina Lucifina Lucifina Lucifina Lucifina Lucifina Lucifina Lucifina Lucifina Lucifina

Just you wait.

I'll come to you.

I'll make you regret betraying me.

In the following instant.

Our figures disappeared from the labyrinth as we teleported using the metastasis formation.

Thus.

"The Former Hero" and "The Former Maou".

Both of their journeys begun, as their paths crossed with each other.

Intermission: Laughing In Hatred

Several days after "Hero" Amatsuki Iori escaped.

Onriin Kingdom.

In the imperial palace enshrined at the center of Bureion castle town, it was still dealing with post-treatment hastily.

In addition to the Hero escaping, he had also stolen the magic stones, along with the national treasure.

Furthermore, the unit which had chased after the hero, was exterminated completely with just one person surviving.

With an investigation about Labyrinth of Hades that ceased functioning, theres a lot of things to deal with.

As such, in the royal palace, Luser Gilban, whom survived after getting treatment had been summoned for an audience with the king.

With Luser's body, that wasn't well-balanced anymore after losing his right arm, he set foot into the throne room with uncertain steps.

It was attended by the aristocrats/nobles whose aim is the downfall of Luser.

How did the Hero escape?

How was the door of the treasure storage opened?

How was the chasing unit annihilated?

Luser answered those questions solemnly.

Even if he had to answer those questions, there's a report that he needed to hide entirely for his own convenience.

Still, for the unconvinced aristocrats that raised a clamor, Luser just directed his gaze towards the king.

As the King that sat in the deepest part of throne room, Gransill Kreuz Onriin, raised his voice seriously to control those aristocrats that were raising their clamor.

「 To arrest the Hero — leave it to me 」 (Luser)

Is said by Luser after fixing his gaze directly to the king.

Losing the Hero and the desertion of Lucifina, who was the strongest knight thirty years ago.

Since that, the Kingdom's war potential has gone down substantially as its national strength fell.

As talented people, such as Luser and Lucifina, have yet to appear since then.

— No one other than me is capable to arrest that guy, but?

On the connotation as Luser spoke to the king.

After a brief silence, the king said.

\[\cdots \cdots \cdot \cdots \cdot arrest the Hero without fail after the house arrest is over. If there isn't any intention of returning it's fine to kill him. Rather than the existence of the Hero being exposed to the foreign country As Luser replied vigorously before he left the throne room. Your Majesty, why didn't you punish Luser!? After he left, the noble who stayed protested to the king. Though he committed such a blunder, why is there no action against him. T/Nit can read as Although he made a mistake, why did you not punish him. Although he grew old, he was a man equal to the Hero once. When judging, the criticism from peoples should be avoided. When it comes to that, are you capable to handle such a problem? \(\) (King) Γ...... The aristocrat couldn't answer the king words. Everyone, that is present here, understands. A man, like him, is necessary for the Kingdom right now | (King) It's a fact that Luser's existence was something irreplaceable for the Kingdom

itself.

The aristocrats were dismissed as they couldn't deny it.
☐ Damn. Damn! Amatsu. Amatsu! Amatsu!! ☐ (Luser)
As Luser who returned to his atelier bursted out his suppressed anger.
Hit the desk with his full force as the equipment lined out on the desk scattered.
Blood dripped from his fist, it couldn't be helped, as it was caused by his hatred.
All of it was Amatsuki Iori fault.(Ed2 note: Rightwho started the revenge cycle again?)
「 Hah, to arrest? Of course I'll KILL HIM! 」 (Luser)
It can't be helped that his mouth keeps spouting curses unstoppably.
「I won't forgive that woman either! 」 (Luser)
To claim to not know about Luser Gilban, who was the kingdom strongest mage?
Even a joke has its limits.
AmatsuAmatsuAmatsu as always.
It was something unacceptable for him.
l've remembered your face
and your magical power as well.
I won't let you get away.
Next time I'll be going all out . 」 (Luser)

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First, being caught off guard.
  Secondly, not enough preparations.
  And thirdly, I'll take all possible measures and crush him.
   What about "Revenge".
  It's me who will get revenge.
  It's me who will be the one to make you be sorry, I will kill you.....!! \( \text{(Luser)} \)
  —That expression of looking down on me.—
  Luser let out a laugh as he imagined how they will beg for their lives while
crying as their faces distorted by pain and regret.
  Regret?
  Apologize?
  I'll kill you?
 Those were all my lines.
   I Judging from the location, they will be headed towards the allied country,
right?
  KUKU, I should make my move. \( \) (Luser)
  Wherever they are, I won't let them slip away.
  Luser began his preparations to kill lori with an ugly smile on his face.
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Author:

Therefore it is the end for the Chapter one.

For those people that keep reading till now, Thank you.

Start from the Chapter two. The journey of vengeance of allied former Hero and former Maou will begins.

From now on I will be in your care!